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QUOTE OF NOTE:

"I was amazed. Here I was, a 10-year-old kid, and grownups were buying my stuff."
– Denise O'Reilly

See story page 4

ON THE COVER

Elaine Cullinane combines her love of gardening with her disire to help others.

Photo by Lisa Brisson
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Denise O'Reilly began etching bottles at the suggestion of her son.

Trees are a common motif for Denise O'Reilly's etching work, such as on this cutting board.

Photos: Jeanine Rose Photography

'Functional art for the kitchen'

From cheese monger to artist

by Mara Dresner
Staff Writer

Denise O'Reilly started her artistic career early. When she was about 10, the Glastonbury native created pine cone wreaths that her father sold in his shop in Glen Lochen.

"I was amazed. Here I was, a 10-year-old kid and grownups were buying my stuff," O'Reilly said. "I went to Naubuc School. I was born and raised in Glastonbury. I grew up on Lancaster Road. I was born in 1963 and Naubuc School was just experimenting with open classrooms. On Wednesdays you could go to art all day long as long as you got your work done. In hindsight it was probably not the best format for me as a kid. I have ADD; I was never diagnosed as a kid. I was not a good student. I needed more structure. I didn't become a good student until Academy, Gideon Welles, high school. Then I was an honors student. I was graded below average at Naubuc. That really affects a kid, being in remedial classes. It really was just the setting."

After graduation, O'Reilly's career as an artist took a break, a long break. She attended UConn for a semester before deciding that wasn't the path for her. She married young and with her husband owned restaurants, just part of her diverse career path.

"I always did something. While we had the restaurants, I always did catering. I did home day care. I did decorative painting for people's houses," O'Reilly said. "I had a residential cleaning business. I did all of these things so didn't have to work a real job. I have three kids. They're all a year apart. They were all in different sports. There were orthodontist appointments, meetings. I don't know how people have children and have a real job. I would rather work three jobs and make my own hours than have to punch a time clock."

When she and her husband divorced, she found herself at loose ends. After moving from her house she was unable to continue with her day-care business and decorative painting.

"That was a problem. I wasn't be able to do any of those things anymore," she said.

She connected with a family who'd just had premature twins and contracted with them to be their nanny for three years.

"That would get me to the point where my youngest child would be graduating high school," she said. "I could still go to lacrosse games at opposite ends of town, or in Simsbury or Ellington. It enabled me to have some flexibility. We had a great relationship. I was able to cart the kids all over the place. I just dragged them all over the place. It worked out really well. Once I finished out those three years and my daughter graduated, I thought, 'Now I need to find insurance. Now I need to find a real job.' I'd never worked for anybody else. I'd always created my own jobs."

O'Reilly had heard that Whole Foods Market would be opening in Glastonbury.

"They had a great reputation. I liked their core values. I thought I must be able to do something," she recalled.

She started entry level at Whole Foods in West Hartford in the deli, slicing provolone. "It was very difficult for me," she said. "I was 45, something like that. It was hard. I moved right up the chain."

Within about seven months, she moved to the Glastonbury store as an associate team leader before going to the Bishop's Corner, West Hartford, store as a team leader in a specialty department.

"I did very well; I learned a ton of stuff. I like to say when I applied to Whole Foods, I had to go to library. My husband had to help me fill out the application. I wasn't computer literate. This was 2007. I really just wasn't a computer person at all. I probably had never emailed anyone. I didn't surf the internet. It was completely foreign to me. I learned a lot; it was a huge learning curve," she said.

There were certain things that she was good at from the start.

"Right away at Whole Foods, I was great at supervising people," she said.

From her restaurant and catering days, she was also familiar with food codes and health department regulations.

Photo by Shana Sureck

Denise O'Reilly, pictured with Macy, worked as a caterer and cheese monger before finding her calling as an artist.

"I was older and wanted to work second shift. That put me in a position of being an older responsible woman in charge of a shift with kids who might be slackers. That was a really good time. For seven months it was an ideal schedule, working for a great corporation. With each promotion, my schedule got worse for my husband and [me] and we just powered through it. There were a lot of perks. I was tasting the best foods in the world. I was going to meetings in Boston. It was a really cool, awesome job. It wasn't so great for me physically. I gained about 50 pounds. You gain a lot of weight when you're around food constantly. The schedule got worse and worse," she said.

Her department was doing well, however, breaking sales records on a regular basis.

"It was just like having your own little shop, your own little gourmet cheese shop," she said. "Eventually, something was missing, I had always been creative. I would get to do displays at Whole Foods. I would do cheese tastings, beautiful cheese displays, so I could do that and be

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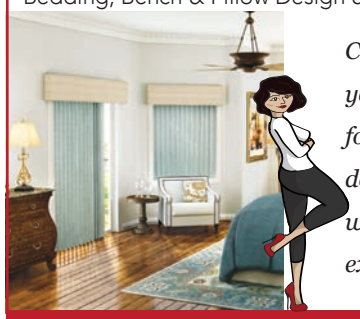

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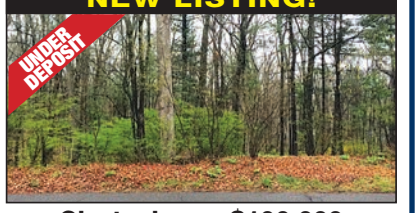

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"It's not a sustainable business if you can't reproduce it."

–Denise O'Reilly

a little bit creative. But it was still a corporation and I was still piling wheels of cheese. But it was very cool being a cheese monger. How many people know how to crack a 90-pound wheel of parmesan? It was a fantastic experience with wonderful, wonderful people."

As she was starting to have some doubts, her husband was having health issues requiring multiple hospitalizations. While she said that Whole Foods was always supportive, she began to feel that she wanted to work from home.

Two and a half years ago, in 2014, she began looking at her Christmas gift list.

"I needed a whole bunch of gifts. We have seven children between us, and they all have significant others. Our immediate family for Christmas was 16 people in this living room," O'Reilly said.

By the time she finished her list, she realized she needed presents for 40 people.

"I said, 'I'm going to make something. What can I make?' I kind of went on Pinterest. I thought, 'I'm not going to put brownies in a jar. That's kind of stupid.' I wanted something that would last and something to do with food. They're all restaurant people, they're all foodies. I found wood-burned spoons but they were ugly and silly. One had a bumblebee on it. There was one with the words 'eat me' on it. They were just ridiculous," she recalled.

She went and purchased spoon sets and used a wood-burning pen to etch a design on them and made rosemary sea salt to go with them.

"Each of those spoon sets took three hours to do. I started in September and by the end of December, I had 40 of them. I wasn't stupid. I was giving them to Whole Foods people for a reason. At the same time, I couldn't imagine how it could be a business," she said. "I could do it while I was watching TV. At the time the condo was for sale. The cabinets were clean; the basement was spotless. I didn't have anything else to do when I came home from work. I would sit on couch with my wood-burning pen. There was no glue, nothing sticky, nothing smelly. It's delightful. It's a wonderful pastime. There's a little tiny plume of smoke. It's very satisfying. I loved it."

O'Reilly was already thinking ahead, trying to come up with a way to create a design that would take less time.

"It's not a sustainable business if you can't reproduce it," she noted.

Next she tried a tree on one of the spoons.

"I've always loved trees. I took my burner and just drew one. There was a blizzard and I ended up burning everything in my house. I posted a picture on Facebook," she said.

Up until that time, she mostly posted photos of her dog of family pictures, but this time, the response was different.

"I got I don't know how many likes. I had never experienced anything like that before. People were sharing it and asking where I got them and that's when I realized I had something. I didn't know how I was going to make it work but I realized there was some kind of appeal to it," she said.

She and her husband began to discuss how to turn it into a business.

"We said this is a plan for us. Maybe in five years, you can do this and you'll retire. It wasn't five years; it was five months. I was getting so many orders, I was answering emails and taking orders in the maintenance closet at work. I was breaking rules, using my phone at work. I was working around the clock. It was insane. I would work until midnight. I was usually working the opening shift, so I would get up at 4:30. I did that for a few months and realized the universe is saying something. In this economy if you're getting this kind of orders, you really need to jump on it," she said.

She tested out some of her designs as part of an in-store fundraiser for Whole Foods' Whole Planet Foundation, which gave her the opportunity both to see what types of items were popular and at what price points.

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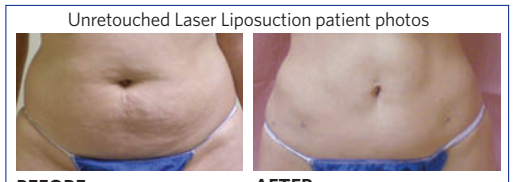

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She left Whole Foods in June 2015 and soon found that even without a separate full-time position, her company, The Burnt Shop, which had just incorporated, had too much work.

"We were sitting out on the patio and I was very overwhelmed. I had a ton of orders," she remembered. "I was saying I have to figure out how to do this faster. I had already upgraded my wood burner twice. Instead of the pens you get at Jo-Ann's, I had a $200 pen, top of the line. You can't get any hotter or faster than what I had. So, what do you do? My son goes, 'Could you do that with glass?'"

Her pen set had come with a diamond tip that she had never used.

"I said, 'You know what? Let me try it.' Wood burning is very slow. It's a tiny tip. I compare it to a mascara wand. Then I took the dremel embedded with the diamond tip. I went, 'Oh my God, this is amazing.' Immediately it was probably three times faster. With wood, I would sand the pieces first, then burn them, then put melted coconut on them. There was a lot of labor that was not there with glass. It was very apparent that it was much faster."

O'Reilly reached out to the Whole Foods stores in West Hartford and Glastonbury and asked that team members bring her clean, empty bottles, which she would etch for free, including each person's name. She did about 75 bottles.

"That's how the glass got started," she said.

Today, O'Reilly creates on both wood and glass. Many of her customers come back time and again.

"I first met Denise O'Reilly of The Burnt Shop last summer at a farmer's market on the Green in Glastonbury," said Jane Breen of Glastonbury. "Since our first meeting I have seen her at many markets and purchased some wonderful gifts from her. Wooden personalize salad bowls, beer glasses, cutting boards, cheese boards, olive oil decanters and even the most unique baby gift. The Burnt Shop is my go-to place for that special gift. I had two weddings to go to last year and I was looking for unique gifts. I purchased two salad bowls with the amazing tree 'burnt' into them. On the bottom of the bowls Denise told me she could put a message to the bride and groom. How special is that? I also purchased a growler with the tree etched into it for a wedding gift along with etched beer glasses. Denise had suggested putting the last name of the couple and the year on the growler. You can bet they wouldn't get a duplicate!"

Breen also has items from O'Reilly, such as a cheeseboard, in her own home.

"Denise uses only products made in the USA. She is creative, easy to work with and delivers a beautiful product," Breen said.

Last year, O'Reilly began a four-year lease on a laser engraver, which is in her basement where she now works.

"This laser is very expensive. This was a huge, huge leap of faith. It's top of the line, American made," she said.

Before entering in the agreement, O'Reilly did her homework to see what kind of work was out there.

"What was most exciting to me was in all these forums, there didn't seem to be anything like what I was doing. Everyone else was doing clip art. Most were doing trophies or awards. People doing wine glasses and things; it was all clip art. I never posted my art on those pages. I go there for technical support. It was a huge, huge learning curve," she said. "I practiced and practiced and practiced and experimented and experimented."

O'Reilly sells her products through her website and in 12 stores. Her wood is all American made. Her tree designs often include a backwards "C" in memory of her mother.

She hopes that people will look to her art as practical as well as beautiful.

"Let's get away from stuff we just buy and throw away. Let's get back to buying something and treasuring it and using it every day and handing it down to your daughter or son. That's the way things should be again. That goes back to the original gifts I was giving for Christmas. I was so tired of giving things that don't mean anything," she said. "It's functional art for the kitchen. It's meant to be used and loved." **GL**

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Denise O'Reilly, right, owner of the Burnt Shop and a member of the board of directors of the Glastonbury Farmers Market, enjoys meeting customers, who often become friends.

Farmers market moves to Wednesdays

Same place, new time, new activities

by Nancy Thompson
Editor

Don't look for the popular Glastonbury Farmers Market on a Saturday morning this year. You won't find it.

Instead, head to Hubbard Green Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. starting June 28 for the local produce, meats, cheese and bakery products, artisans' creations, and activities such as yoga, entertainment and children's programs the market has become famous for, along with a selection of food trucks.

The move came about because organizers realized that many residents head out of town on weekends during the summer.

Denise O'Reilly, owner of the Burnt Shop and a member of the market's board of directors, said she believes the Wednesday schedule should attract more visitors. "People during the week are looking for things to do," she said, adding that on a busy weekend it can be hard to find an hour to visit the market.

This year, food trucks will be on hand to serve up a snack or a supper for guests.

The market is expanding its children's activities, keeping the popular children's coloring table and adding children's yoga four times during the season, fire and police trucks and ambulances, an interactive activity sponsored by the CT Audubon Center once a month, library story time twice a month, face painting and special activities such as balloon art on opening day, pumpkin art toward the end of the season in October.

More than 20 vendors are expected to take part each week, with the lineup changing week to week. Farmers will sell fresh produce throughout the growing season, artisans will offer fiber art, jewelry and other products and a holistic massage therapist and chiropractor will visit. Sacred Rivers will offer adult yoga weekly from

This flag will direct visitors to the Glastonbury Farmers Market, which has moved to Wednesdays and will open for the season on June 28.

Courtesy photos

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Greekin' Out, Brasato and Mercato are among the food trucks that will visit.

We'll have artisans, farmers, a mix," said Marjorie Cooke, vice president of the board of directors.

The market's organizers are hoping to recruit student volunteers to help out.

"We want kids to take an interest in the market," Cooke said. "They don't have to commit to every week."

Local farmers and artisans enjoy taking part in the market and meeting friends, neighbors and new customers.

"I love the beautiful shady lawn and convenient location, said O'Reilly, who will be participating for her third year. "So many farmers' markets are held in hot, open fields, this one truly stands out as one of my 'prettiest' venues. I'm a town resident so from a vendor perspective, it's great to meet my Glastonbury customers. Many become regulars and place repeat orders for personalized gifts. We soon become friends and they appreciate the ability to pick up orders at the next week's market."

She said she enjoys the wholesome entertainment and family-friendly atmosphere and said she is looking forward to bringing her grandchildren to help at her booth. "I feel that young families, couples and seniors are looking for wholesome, affordable entertainment," she said. "An afternoon at this market is such a lovely way to spend a few hours and grab a quick dinner. It's safe and enriching for young children, a great gathering spot for friends and easily accessible for seniors in the community. All this and folks are supporting many local small businesses at the same time."

Gordon Bednarz, the third generation to run Bednarz Farm, has been part of the market since it started five years ago. "Bednarz Farm grows primarily USDA certified organic vegetables with the exception of sweet corn and strawberries, which conventionally grown," he said. "The Farmers Market enables area farmers and vendors to meet the community in convenient, centrally located place."

For Suzanne Aberg, owner of Mudjoy Pottery, the switch in dates means she can't be part of the market this year because she has a full-time job and is unable to get there in time. But she said she enjoyed being part of it for two years for several reasons, including being able to start her pottery business in a small, local setting with its variety of fresh foods and craft vendors and live music.

"We were very successful with this market; many people enjoyed seeing and purchasing our pottery," she said. "We would always run into friends and neighbors, making the morning even more joyful. The Glastonbury Farmers Market is very folksy and contributes to building our community"

John Melzen, who operates Melzen Pet Supply with his brothers, Ken and Jim, can be found most weeks at the store's tent at the market. Melzen said he enjoys meeting people, talking with them and letting new residents know about the 96-year-old family business. "For us, it's a chance to meet people we've never met before," he said. "It's a good time, and it's growing every year. The market itself is a great setting. Everybody knows everybody, and the vendors all work together. It's a great thing to be part of." **GL**

To learn more, visit glastonburyfarmersmarket.com or facebook.com/GlastonburyFarmersMarket or send an email to glastonburyfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

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Local YMCA expands

New facility offers new programs and activities

by Nancy Thompson
Editor

The local YMCA has been on the move.

The organization has left cramped office space in a local mall and moved to a site where it will be able to offer more activities to more people.

For 10 years, the local Y, a branch of the YMCA of Greater Hartford, operated out of about 1,000 square feet at Fox Run Mall. There was barely room for offices, let alone any programs. It was, as Eric Hutchinson, its executive director, said, "a Y without walls."

The group's new facility, at 95 Oakwood Drive, is about four times the size of the old space. The structure was built as the headquarters of the Furlong Lumber Company and later was the home of the Word Fellowship church.

Hutchinson, who acknowledges being a history buff, said he has tried to preserve some elements of what

Eric Hutchinson, executive director of the Glastonbury Family YMCA, and local board Chairman David Wilcox believe the new facility on Oakwood Drive will enable the Y to be even more connected with the community.

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he called the building's "storied past."

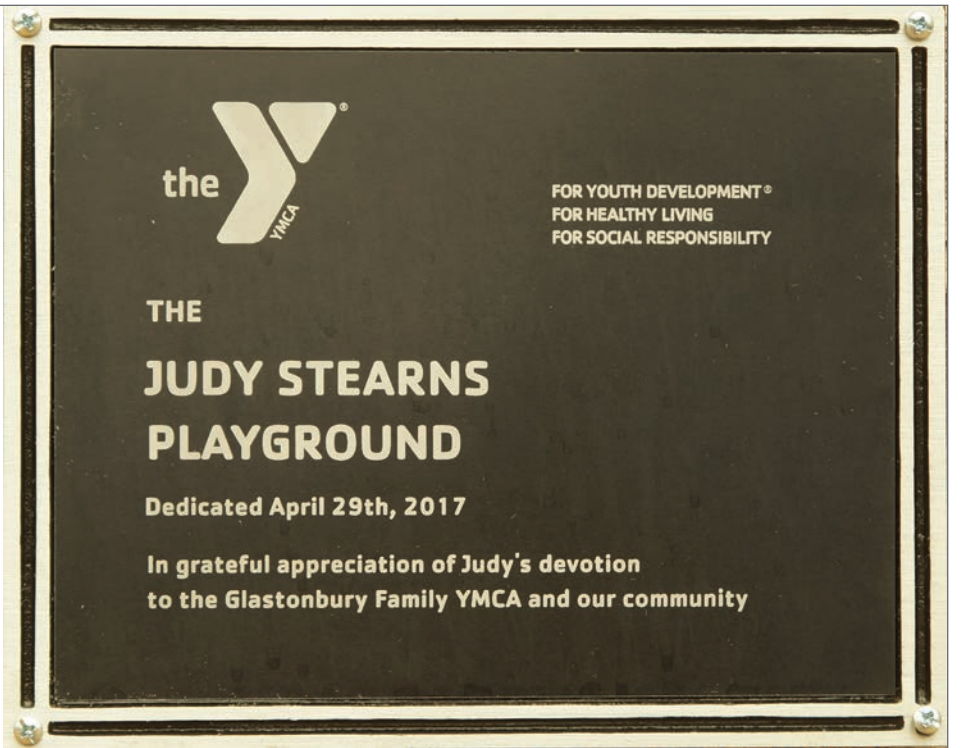
Visitors to the Y's new home will see windows in the preschool room that served as samples of the lumber company's wares and wide plank floors that were part of its days as the Furlong salesroom. Cubbies in the preschool room were salvaged from a Hartford preschool that closed, and the church's sanctuary is now a multi-purpose community room. "I tried to keep as much as possible," Hutchinson said.

There also is a wellness center, with treadmills, elliptical trainers and stationary bike, men's and women's bathrooms equipped with a shower in each, an outdoor playground and equipment for music lessons, fitness classes and other activities that weren't possible at the former site.

The Y's 12-week LiveStrong program, which provides fitness programs for cancer survivors, takes place at the new site, and the Y continues to work with the local Healthtrax in offering a year of free membership to help the survivors continue their recovery.

Programs at the new building include free child care while parents work out, "Mommy and Me" crafts time, group exercise classes such as yoga and Zumba, and dance, babysitting and guitar lessons. Other activities, such as the before- and after-school daycare programs, youth basketball, tennis and horseback riding and summer camp take place elsewhere.

As a program branch of the YMCA of Greater Hartford, the local Y offers a WellPass for $25 a month to people who want to use the fitness center, take part in group exercise classes and take advantage of free child care during the group sessions. The WellPass program, which is open to non-residents as well, is small but convenient, and very effective. "We know everyone who walks through the door," Hutchinson said. "We really make sure we develop those relationships."



Nancy Thompson photo

The new playground at the Glastonbury Family YMCA has been named in honor of Judy Stearns, a town resident who has spent many years supporting the organization at the local, state, national and international levels.

Saeed Shakir, a Glastonbury resident, has been had a pass for four months. "It's the best thing that ever happened to me," he said, adding that he has lost 75 pounds through daily exercise and changes to his eating habits.

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11 Critical home inspection

Traps to be aware of before listing your Wethersfield home

WETHERSFIELD - Newmarket - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the home inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved. To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-800-597-7893 and enter 1003. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This report is courtesy of Sanam Solati Yurczyk, REALTOR®, EXIT Realty Black Rock. Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale.

The move to the new building involved volunteers from throughout the community.

"My favorite thing about this is that it's truly a volunteer effort," Wilcox said. "We raised money and in-kind donations from the community and from the Rotary Club and other organizations. This is a Y that really belongs to the community."

Hutchinson agreed. "Communities that support their Y have a Y that supports their community," he said. He said that while the official name of the organization is YMCA, which originally stood for Young Men's Christian Association, it welcomes all ages, genders and religions. "We're not all young, we're not all men, and we're not all Christian," he said with a smile.

Wilcox said he and his wife, Margaret, became involved in the local Y three decades ago when their children were young and enjoyed activities and summers at a Y camp. "The kids grew up and we continued to donate," he said. "I was asked to be on the board about a decade ago. I'm now the board chairman in the fifth year of a three-year term."

"The Y does so much for so many with so little," he said. "It's just a fabulous volunteer organization. Even in Glastonbury, which is a fortunate town, there are people in need."

"The Y does so much for so many with so little."

–David Wilcox

He said that before the move the Y was limited by space constraints. "There was no separate facility and we had limited visibility in town," he said. "With a larger center there are new programs and more people in them."

Judy Stearns, a local resident and retired elementary school teacher, first served on the local YMCA's board of managers in 1974 and from 1982 to 1985 was the board's chairman. She was elected to the larger YMCA's board of directors in 1985 and was the first woman to become board chairman in 1994. Later she became involved in the organization on an international level and traveled to Siberia, Israel, the Dominican Republic, England, Mexico, Canada and throughout the U.S.

"Everywhere, I was a witness to the Mission-driven programs helping children and families and addressing the social and educational needs in their own countries," she said.

During that time she was not actively involved in the local Y, although she was friendly with the executive directors through the years.

"However, Eric Hutchinson set one of his many sights on me and has pulled me right back into the former feelings of great pride and respect for the Glastonbury Y and its important growth in so many directions," she said. "I am extremely honored to be a part of the new pre-school's playground – right up my alley."

She was present for the grand opening in May of the playground that bears her name.

"Judy was the first person down the slide," Hutchinson said.

Wilcox urged people to take advantage of the Y and the opportunities it supports. "Besides, it's one of the few organizations that has a song named for it," he said with a chuckle. **GL**

To learn about activities and other programs at the Glastonbury Family YMCA or how to become involved as a member of the board of directors, visit glastonburyYMCA.org or call 860-633-6548.

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People Notes

Courtesy photos

Nicole Cantone, EmilyAnne DeYoung, Gabriella Gineo, Austin Michaels and **Devin O'Reilly** made the dean's list at Merrimack College.

Mary Brodeur, Olivia Roy and **Tiana Umbach** made the dean's list at Stonehill College.

Nicole Gottschalk has received the Chancellor's Award of Student Excellence at the State University of New York's New Paltz campus.

Eli Cooper and **Mitchell Willsey** made the dean's list at Bates College.

Phoebe Rotelli has collected 850 pounds of new and gently used clothing, shoes, accessories and housewares to donate to the Second Chance Shop, a volunteer-run store that benefits the Village for Families & Children.

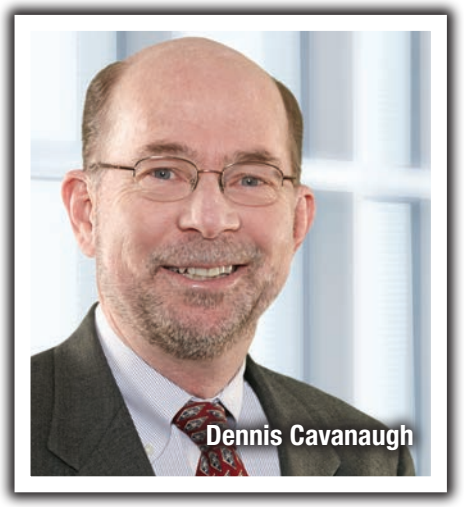
This is the third year that the 10-year-old has run her clothing drive. The shop, at 730 Hebron Avenue, is run by the organization's Glastonbury Auxiliary.

Samantha DiBacco, a student at Kingswood Oxford and the daughter of Frank and Corinne DiBacco, has been awarded the Barnes Service Award from the WALKS Foundation for community service performed off campus. The foundation is a consortium of five schools, Avon Old Farms, Loomis Chaffee, Kingswood Oxford, and Suffield Academy.

Kwasi Amofa, an engineering student at Western New England University, has been accepted to participate in research as a Fulbright Scholar in recognition of his academic and professional achievement and his record of service and leadership potential in his field.

He will spend next year in the Netherlands working on a project to bioengineer a cornea, which could have a great impact on medical treatment.

The work of **Sarah Schneiderman** will be included in the Art League of New Britain's 13th Annual Spring Juried Exhibit through June 4 at 30 Cedar Street in New Britain. Gallery hours are Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. or by appointment.



Sofia Brummitt, Jennifer Scola and Isha and **Nupur Sondhi** performed in the Ballet Theatre Company of West Hartford's production of The Fairy Doll.

Dennis Cavanaugh, a lawyer at Robinson+Cole, has been named the Lawyer of the Year in the state for construction law in a survey produced by Best Lawyers for 2017. This is the third time he has received the designation. **GL**

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GLASTONBURY **$739,900**
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EAST HADDAM **$349,000**
4BR/3.1BA post & beam home. Wideboard wood flrs thruout. MBR w/ fp, sitting area & walk-in closet. Back-to-back stone hearth in FR & DR. Kit w/ eat-in area & desk, granite & SS. Lg great room. Mudroom. Laundry on 1st flr. C/air & C/vac. 2 Car gar.
SHARON FOX **860-805-6917**

EAST HADDAM **$265,900**
2BR/2BA custom built Col. Lrg kit. Roofed, ground-level deck, priv. bckyrd w/ small pond. LL has FR, BA, laundry, potential for 3rd BR & access to garage. Updated 200 AMP system, generator & c/air. Upgraded floors. Lrg 2-car heated att garage. Shed.
CARI ANDROSS **860-301-7850**

EAST HAMPTON **$324,000**
4BR/2.1BA Col. EIK w/ new granite counters & tile backsplash & new SS appliances. New paved driveway Fall '16. New windows & storm doors'14. New roof '12. DR & LR w/ oak HW flrs. FR w/ slider to lg deck. Woodburning brick fp. Finished bsmnt w/ den.
JOANNE BARMASSE **860-301-8949**

EAST HAMPTON **$415,000**
4BR/3BA Col in Valli Estates at end of cul de sac. 2 story foyer, kit w/ granite, & slider to deck. 1st flr FR w/ woodburning fp & cathedral ceil. MBR suite w/ tray ceil. Loft off 2nd level hall. Private bckyrd. Airline Trail just beyond stone wall.
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Walking on stilts, fashioned from pieces of timber, were a popular activity.

Courtesy photos

All work and no play?

Local kids have always found ways to have fun

by Nancy Thompson
Editor

It's often said that all work and no play will make Jack a dull boy. But while Jack and his long-ago friends had a lot of work to do, they managed to find all sorts of ways to have fun.

In Glastonbury's colonial times, there was little time for playing. Children as young as three had chores to do, but kids being kids, they often turned chores into contests – seeing who could chop wood or carry water

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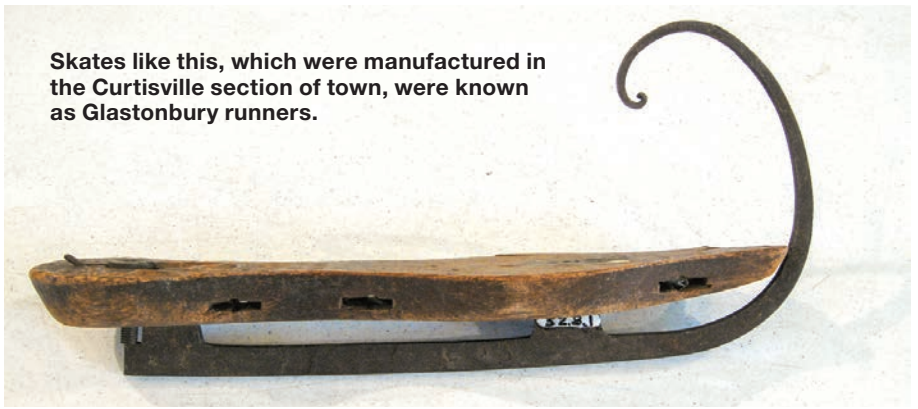

Skates like this, which were manufactured in the Curtisville section of town, were known as Glastonbury runners.

Children often used sacks, which were readily available on the farm, for races.

Courtesy photos

fastest, for example – and used what materials they had around to create games and toys, some of which adults remember and are still played today.

Sack races, relay races and games such as leap frog helped children hone their running and jumping skills, and many were handy as they learned to do chores around the house or the farm.

Running and chasing games – useful for daily tasks as well – included blind man's bluff, hide-and-go-seek, duck-duck-goose, witches in a jar, thread the needle, and a singing game called How Many Miles to Babylon.

The children and their parents were able to find all sorts of would-be toys. Rope rings or old horseshoes were good for games of ring toss or horseshoes, dolls were often made from corncobs, and twigs or straws from brooms were used for pick-up sticks.

In the 1800s kids and even adults often sat on a horse-drawn plow while it cleared snow from local streets. It had the double effect of adding weight to the plow and giving the riders a chance for some fun. A favorite place for winter-time sledding was Paper Mill Hill south of Buck's Corner. Sleds, which were known as "pig-stickers," had wooden or iron runners that stood out in front and looked like pigs' ears.

Local kids and adults enjoyed skating, often with skates known as "Glastonbury runners," in many of the town's mill ponds and flooded meadows near the Connecticut River.

More recently, adults enjoyed a half-mile race track built by Ralph Pinney that is responsible for names such as Carriage Drive in the Buttonball area. It was the site of information competition and equally informal betting, as well as a race at the end of each harvest that provided the winner with a part of 100 bushes of oats. **GL**

Our thanks to Diane Hoover, education director for the Historical Society of Glastonbury, for her help in preparing this column.

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Business Notes

Courtesy photos

POP Weight Loss

Killam & Bassette Farmstead will be operating at Berruti's Harvest House this year. The farmstand is at 1098 Main Street, South Glastonbury.

POP Weight Loss, which has moved to a new office at 74 New London Turnpike, celebrated recently with a ribbon-cutting with several members of the CT River Valley Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit popweightloss.com/connecticut/ or call 860-918-9176.

Pizzeria Sassano, a new restaurant at Buck's Corner, is featuring 14 photographs from Wethersfield photographer Jack McConnell's Know Your CT Farmer collection.

Nick Daukas, managing partner of **KardasLarson**, a human resources consulting firm based in Glastonbury, was a keynote speaker at a half-day business seminar about background screening.

Smith Brothers Insurance has been appointed to the Hanover Insurance Group's President's Club.

Nick Daukas

CT River Valley Chamber

Sunrise Real Estate LLC

Sunrise Real Estate LLC, which serves Glastonbury and other communities in central Connecticut, recently took part in a ribbon-cutting at the CT River Valley Chamber of Commerce's office. To learn more, visit sunriserealestate.solutions/ or call 860-794-0551.

Starling Physicians, a physician-owned, fully integrated multi-specialty medical practice, has opened a new office at 289 Western Boulevard. To learn how to schedule an appointment, visit starlingphysicians.com or call the practice's main number, 860-258-3470.

The CT River Valley Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, which has an office at 131 New London Turnpike. To learn more, call 860-430-8171.

GoodWorks Insurance, which has an office in Glastonbury, has entered into an agreement in which will donate 20 percent of its commission to AIDS Connecticut, a Hartford nonprofit organization whenever an AIDS Connecticut donor or employee buys insurance from the company.

The Choppe Shoppe, an upscale full-service salon catering to both men and women, has opened at 2839 Main Street. The shop offers a full-service salon upstairs for women, and a full-service barbershop downstairs for men, including a 50-inch flat-screen television, leather couches and a complimentary hot towel shave and massage with every haircut, as well as a bourbon bar and cigars on weekend.

Fresh Monkee, which sells healthy meal-replacement shakes in its local shop, has expanded to offer catering with what they're calling the "Monkee bus." To learn more, contact judy@thefreshmonkee.com. **GL**

Photographer Jack McConnell's Know Your CT Farmer collection

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A keepsake locket necklace makes a graduation gift that will be appreciated for decades. Choose from a wide variety of designs, available in silver, gold and gunmetal looks. Each locket opens with space for two one-inch by one-inch photos, and comes with a chain. They sell for $16. Make your gift extra special by having the back engraved with a name, initials, date or favorite quote. Engraving can be done onsite for an additional fee. You'll find them at Caribbean Charm Boutique, 136 New London Turnpike (Victorian house at Eric Town Square), 860-430-9909, caribbeancharm.com. **GL**

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Getting to the essence of excellence

Glastonbury High honors

By Will Andriola

Twice each year Glastonbury High School honors a small group of students and faculty members with an Essence Award, one of its highest honors. This, however, is not an academic award, nor is it related at all to sports, though certainly students who receive it often excel in both areas. Rather, the award focuses on honoring the outstanding contributions of a select few individuals to Glastonbury's school community. In doing so, it highlights individuals who, in their day to day lives at the school, demonstrate key aspects of educational character including courage, respect and caring.

The Essence Award brings attention to – and rewards – positive actions that may otherwise have gone unnoticed and allows students the opportunity to thank staff or other students who have made a positive difference in their lives.

The award is a long-running tradition at the high school, with spring of 2017 marking the 12th year the award has been given. According to Dr. Thomas Neagle, an assistant principal at GHS and the chairman of the Essence Awards Committee, the award came, "out of a discussion I had with former English teacher Maureen Dennehy about what a great school community we have, and about how many people we have doing wonderful things here. What was missing was that we didn't celebrate these contributions." Thus, the Essence Award was born.

Recipients of the award, a list which now includes more than 125 people, have their names engraved on a large plaque in the school's main lobby, as well as immortalized on the school's website. To be considered for the Essence Award, a person – student, parent or staff member – must be nominated by any member of the GHS community.

Submitted photo

This year's Essence Award recipients are Logan Stevens, a junior, Lianna Creedon, Nicole Martin, Eric Wang, and Gianna Michaelson, seniors, and Ms. Diane Pintavalle, a biology teacher.

The nomination requires an essay detailing what the nominee has done to improve the lives of those around them, as well as in what ways they exemplify the school's core values. Essays are then read by a committee, whose members select the recipients of the award.

The number of students or teachers receiving the award often changes year to year. Two teachers

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received the fall 2016 awards, whereas in the spring of 2016 six people did, reflecting, according to Dr. Neagle, a focus on "quality over quantity." Because of this selectiveness, the award has become all the more special. The entire school will be watching the ceremony in person or as it is either livestreamed to their classroom.

Part of what makes the Essence Awards so special is that they honor those who make an impact on the GHS community in a way other awards aren't able to and recognize actions that might otherwise go unnoticed and can highlight actions anyone could take to make the GHS community stronger and more supportive. Over the years actions, both big and small, of students and staff have been honored. Nomination speeches in the past have highlighted everything from students who have started charities to teachers who have given up their own shoelaces when a student lost theirs.

"The Essence Awards makes a huge school like GHS feel more like a community. It is something that connects parents, teachers, and of course, students," said Mr. William Stebbins, an English teacher, Mr. David Burgess, director of bands at the high school, agreed, saying, "It's always nice to recognize such outstanding people, and remind everyone of the standards we should all strive for."

This spring, five students have been chosen to receive the Essence Award. They are seniors Lianna Creedon, Nicole Martin, Gianna Michaelson, and Eric Wang and Logan Stevens, a junior. In addition, Ms. Diane Pintavalle, a biology teacher, will receive the award.

Nicole said the experience has been an honor. "I really appreciate all the time and effort Dr. Neagle has put into this event," she said. He really does an incredible job. I am so honored to have been nominated for this award by three teachers I admire so much. I couldn't have asked for a better way to end senior year."

Local students spent two weeks in St. Petersburg, Russia, as part of Glastonbury High School's nationally recognized exchange program. Zoe Ward and Will Andriola, both seniors who made the trip, agreed to write about their experiences, which included new friends and new insights. Here are their stories in their own voices:

"Hard to say good-bye"

GHS Russian Exchange program

by Zoe Ward

In April I spent two weeks in St. Petersburg, Russia on the GHS Russian Exchange program. One of my favorite places to visit was Peterhoff Palace. I went on a Saturday with my closest Russian and American friends. We walked around for hours. I was amazed by all the beautiful gardens that surrounded the palace. Even though it was winter and rather cold outside, the gardens were still magnificent. I particularly liked the gold statues that decorated the stairs on one side of the palace. I really hope I can return one day in the summer to see the fountains in the gardens and around the figures. We also took a tour inside the palace. Inside was just as amazing as outside. Each room was beautifully decorated with incredible detail.

I made many memorable friends and had wonderful experiences in Russia. Every morning before our daily excursion, we went to school for a few hours. There we were able to interact with students of all ages. Our hosts' school has students of all ages, from first to eleventh grade. We sat in on classes and engaged in conversations with both students and teachers. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming, however, I made a few friends that stood out from all the rest. I became really good friends with a group of younger children. I greatly enjoyed talking with them and receiving frequent hugs. Although they didn't really know English, I found it quite easy to communicate with them. They used more simple vocabulary and always slowed down when I asked, especially since they would often become really excited and talk quickly. I became really close with one little girl in particular. She would also refer to me as 'her American', in Russian of course. It was especially hard to say goodbye to her.

I was fortunate to stay with a wonderful family. They were great hosts and I really enjoyed chatting with them. The mom, in particular, was really interesting to talk to. She was so nice and constantly tried to make me food and/or asked if I wanted tea. My host, Valera, and I often walked around the city with our friends. He took me to this wonderful coffee house, where you paid for time spent there rather than the drinks. You could have as much coffee or tea as you wanted, and there were so many games to play and different rooms to hang out in. We also went to a rooftop. It had an incredible view and was also a really great hang out place.

I definitely anticipate returning to Russia in the near future. Although I have committed to a college, I am first taking a gap year in Brazil. When I eventually go to college I plan on double majoring in Global Studies and Russian, likely with a French minor as well. My school, Colby College, has a wonderful language program and many different study abroad options in Russia including their own program in Saint-Petersburg!

Courtesy photos

Top: Lianna Creedon, Mari Coulibaly, Zoe Ward, Alicia Haynes, Chloe Tuttle, Courtney Luker, Becca Szumski, Sasha Marcone, Stephan Kapustka and Alexandra Ross pose visited the Russian Museum, which holds a huge collection of Russian art, from ancient icons to contemporary pieces. **Bottom:** Zoe Ward made several friends at Glastonbury High School's partner school. Anna Zorina, director of foreign languages at School 631, looks on.

Courtesy photo

Local students enjoyed a full hot lunch each day at School 631's cafeteria. Clockwise from the front are Alicia Haynes, Courtney Luker, Zoe Ward, Alexandra Ross, Stephan Kapustka, Lianna Creedon, Will Andriola and Sasha Marcone.

"A Glimpse into the enigma that is Russia"

GHS Russian Exchange program

by Will Andriola

While in St. Petersburg, I had the chance to see incredible monuments and museums, explore a city very much unlike Glastonbury, and further my knowledge of the Russian language. I can say without the slightest doubt that this exchange was my favorite experience of my entire high school career.

Each day of the two weeks we were in St. Petersburg, we were given the opportunity to tour a famous landmark of the city, be it a museum or palace or church. Perhaps my favorite of these landmarks was the St. Isaac's Cathedral, a towering domed building with an interior of stunning mosaics and huge, marble columns. So too was the Hermitage museum extremely impressive, with opulently decorated rooms and thousands of works of art. Perhaps equally as memorable as the field trips was what we did after them, the time we were able to spend exploring the streets of St. Petersburg with our hosts. Some of my favorite memories of the exchange come from times where a small group of us would meet up at, for instance, a Russian "anti-café," (where payment is for time spent in the café rather than for any food) and spend hours just talking and playing card games with our Russian hosts. It was quiet, face-to-face moments such as these, as well as the incredible kindness and warmth of our hosts that made this exchange truly unforgettable.

Politics remained a constant backdrop to our exchange, subtle yet irrepressibly part of the conversation. While we were there, St. Petersburg witnessed a visit from Putin, a horrific bombing of one of her metros, the first such attack in St. Petersburg's history, and, in nearby Moscow, a visit from US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. My host remarked at the difference in coverage of President Trump between now and just a few months ago on Russian state-sponsored television, remarked at how US-Russian relations seemed to be trending downward once more. Support for Putin is certainly not monolithic, especially in a city like St. Petersburg, but it too was a subtle force; many Russians do actually seem to like him. Others, though, expressed distaste at how he silences his opponents to the point where he can remain in power with little opposition. Conversations such as these allowed me to get a glimpse, however brief, into the enigma that is Russian politics, something I hope to learn more about in college.

This exchange reinforced for me beyond a doubt my desire to continue my study of Russian at Hamilton College next year, and hopefully study abroad again in Russia in college. One thing is for certain, though; I know I'll never forget my experience on this exchange.

Courtesy photo

Becca Szumski, Sasha Marcone, Chloe Tuttle, Courtney Luker and Alicia Haynes donned head coverings for their visit to Kazan Cathedral. It is customary for women to cover their heads inside a Russian Orthodox church.

News roundup

Honoring Dave Cox

David Brewer Cox, a local architect and community volunteer who died suddenly six years ago, will be honored by the Glastonbury Town Center Initiative June 1 at 4 p.m. at Fountain Green. Cox designed the green when he was a student at Glastonbury High School. A plaque in his honor will be unveiled at the ceremony. In case of rain, the event will take place June 2.

Be a BFF

The town, which has been designated as a "Bike Friendly Community" is inviting business owners and people who operate facilities in town to support cycling through a new program designed to show cyclists they are provide amenities to cyclists. It's known as a Bike Friendly Facility designation, often abbreviated to BFF.

There is no charge to be part of the program, which includes a window display and a listing on the program's link on the town website. A bicycle-friendly facility must provide safe and secure parking for at least four bicycles, let cyclists refill their own water bottle at no charge and either let cyclists use a restroom or tell them about another one they can use nearby. To learn more and download an application, visit Glastonbury-ct.gov/bff.

Roundabout work continues

As part of the construction of a new roundabout at the intersection of Hebron Avenue and New London Turnpike, New London Turnpike will be closed from Welles Street to Hebron Avenue until the first or second week in June.

Strawberry Moon off but will return

The popular "Evening Under the Strawberry Moon" and "A Taste of Glastonbury" celebration won't take place this year because of construction of the new roundabout at the intersection of Hebron Avenue and New London Turnpike. The Glastonbury Town Center Initiative, which sponsors the event, has said it will take place June 16, 2018.

New drug drop-off program available

Anyone who wants to get rid of prescription drugs can use a new prescription drop box in the main lobby of the Glastonbury Police Department headquarters. The drop box, which is available at all times and provides an environmentally safe alternative for disposing of medications, was made possible with support from the East of the River Action for Substance Abuse Elimination, the local health department, youth and family services department and the Glastonbury Community Action Partnership. The medications will be incinerated at no charge through a prescription take-back program provided by Covanta.

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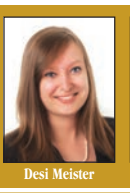
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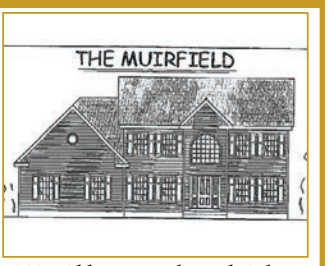

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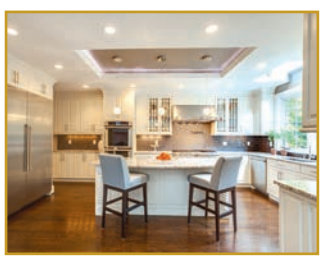

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King committee scholarships

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is offering scholarships to two local students to enable them to participate in Leadership Greater Hartford's Summer Nexus program. The awards are open to students entering their sophomore, junior or senior year at any high school and will be based on need. The deadline for application for the second program, which costs $600 and will take place August 6 through 12, is July 7.

To learn more and get an application, contact Andre Santiago, senior program director of youth programs for Leadership Greater Hartford by calling 860-951-6161, extension 1100 or 860-206-5067, or sending an email to Andre.Santiago@Leadershhipgh.org. **GL**

Performing at Brookdale Mountain Laurel Hebron

Courtesy photo

Fourth-grade teachers and their students performed for residents of the Brookdale Mountain Laurel Hebron with Tami Cherdack, cantorial soloist at Congregation Kol Haverim.

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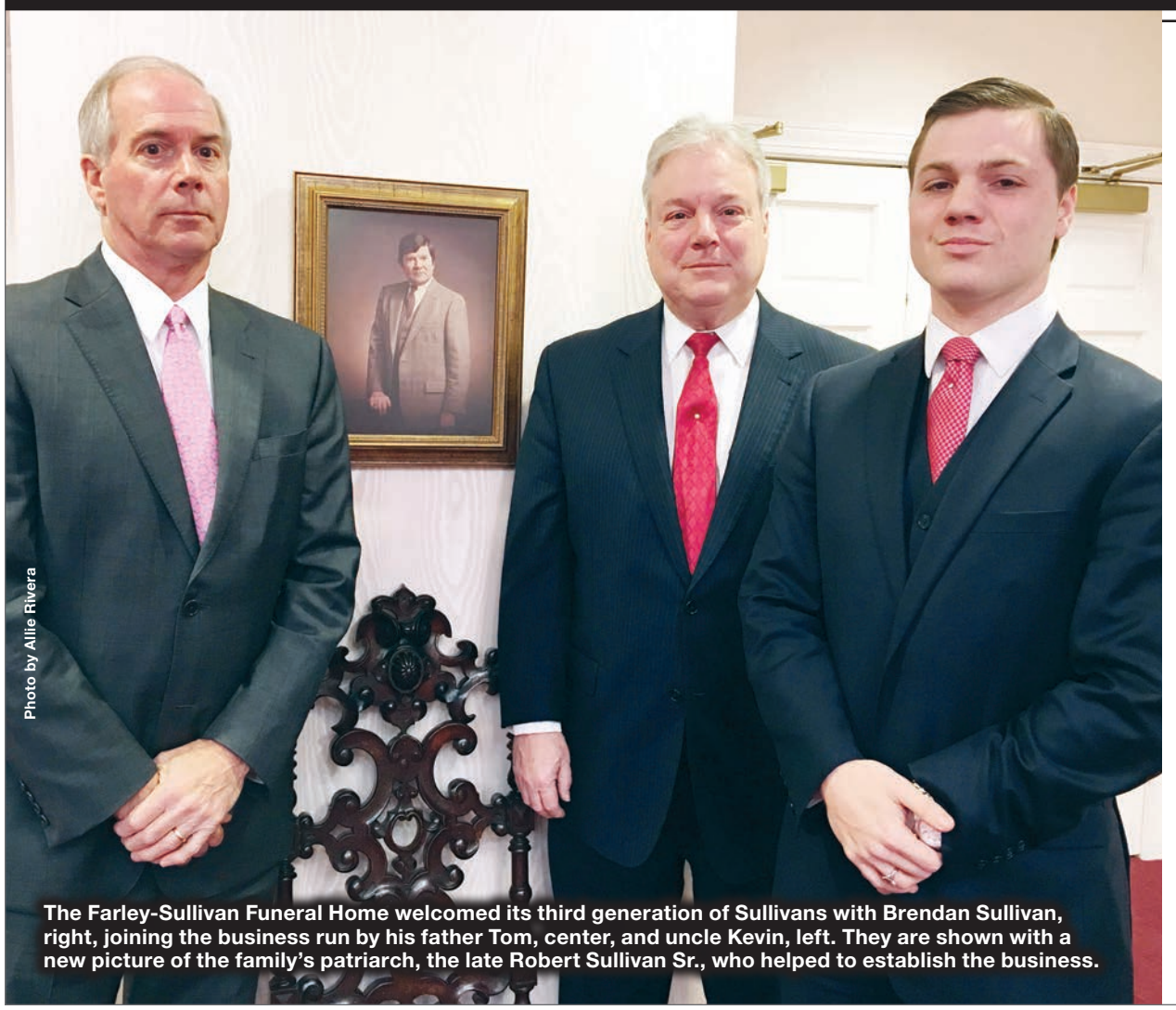

Photo by Allie Rivera

The Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home welcomed its third generation of Sullivans with Brendan Sullivan, right, joining the business run by his father Tom, center, and uncle Kevin, left. They are shown with a new picture of the family's patriarch, the late Robert Sullivan Sr., who helped to establish the business.

All in the family

Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home welcomes third generation to the family business

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

Business and family go hand in hand at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home. The establishment recently welcomed the third generation of Sullivans into the fold.

Farley-Sullivan has a long history as a family owned and operated business. Opened in 1943 by Thomas F. and Marguerite Farley, the original funeral home was located on Webster Street in Hartford. Only four years after opening, however, Thomas Farley died in an auto accident.

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Unwilling to give up the business, his wife continued to run the funeral home, hiring a small team of employees to help her including the newly licensed Robert Sullivan Sr. Bob, as he was known, took on the role of managing the operation.

After Marguerite's death in 1964, he continued to run the business and eventually acquired sole ownership. With the help of his wife, Pat, the Sullivan family began full management of the funeral home.

"We pretty much grew up in it," his son Kevin Sullivan said.

"As kids, we always helped out there," his brother, Tom Sullivan, added. "We were never allowed to go into the private areas, but we helped around where we could, washing cars, transferring flower arrangements, things like that."

As Kevin, Tom and their eldest brother Robert Sullivan Jr., known as Bobby, grew older, they began to take on even greater roles. Bobby was the first in the family to graduate from the American Academy-McAllister Institute of Mortuary Science in New York City in 1970 and he soon joined the business.

A few years later, Kevin followed in his brother's footsteps and graduated from the same program. Tom attended Briarwood College in Southington.

Bob acquired the Sullivan Funeral Home of Glastonbury in 1977, which at the time was no relation to the Hartford facility. With Kevin settling in Glastonbury with his family, the purchase was an obvious choice.

With the addition of three children helping to run things, the business outgrew its Hartford location. They moved to their current facility in 1966, a new 11,000-square-foot building on Beaver Road.

"It was a good fit and it made sense for us to come here," Kevin said.

By the time this location opened each of the brothers had moved out of Hartford. While Kevin remained in Glastonbury, Tom moved his fam-

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ily to Rocky Hill and Bobby settled in Wethersfield.

"Our brother Bobby was one of those guys that everybody knew. He was a very well-liked guy. So was our father," Tom said.

Bob Sr. died in 2005. Bobby died in 2013.

While all of their fathers were part of the funeral business, the next generation had a slightly different experience than Bobby, Kevin and Tom.

"I didn't grow up in it as much as they did," Tom's son, Brendan Sullivan, said. "In high school I used to help my father out sometimes, but that was really it."

After graduating from Rocky Hill High School in 2013, he began thinking about his future career prospects and soon found himself drawn to the family business.

"I just decided this was my true calling," he said.

According to his father, Brendan has always possessed the characteristics of a funeral director. But he was still surprised to hear that his son wanted to join the business.

"We didn't see it coming, but we also weren't surprised when it happened," Tom said. "There's 10 grandchildren in his generation and in our family nobody was ever pressured into the business. We always felt he did have the personality for it, though."

Following in his uncles' footsteps, Brendan began attending AAMI, graduating in December 2016. He passed his state and national board examinations and is currently completing his apprenticeship before fully joining the firm.

"We are and we always have been a family run place," Tom said. "At some point during a service, they're going to be dealing with someone they know. With him coming in now, it's going to continue on for a whole other generation."

"With him coming in now, it's going to continue on for a whole other generation."

–Tom Sullivan

That familial aspect is part of what the Sullivans believe has kept them in business for so long.

"I think what's important for families is that you always see a familiar and friendly face," Brendan said. "Because of our situation, we are able to tailor and cater each service for every family."

He is excited to join the business full time and bring to it his own knowledge and expertise.

"The world is changing and I'd like to bring some modern ideas to it," he said. "It's going to be the same business. In terms of service, I don't plan to change a thing, but maybe modernizing some things."

With Brendan coming aboard as the third generation of Sullivans, Kevin and Tom said they are proud to see what their father helped to establish continuing on.

"We plan on being a family owned and operated business for years to come," Kevin said. **GL**

The Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home is located at 34 Beaver Road. Its Glastonbury location is 50 Naubuc Ave. Call 860-563-9999 or go online at farleysullivan.com.

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‘This is my calling’

Kol Haverim hires new senior rabbi

by Mara Dresner
Staff Writer

Courtesy photo

Rabbi Kari Tuling started her career in marketing communications before deciding to attend rabbinical school.

Kari Tuling was working in marketing communications when she had a major realization.

“I was a senior manager. I had a very impressive title. I had an assigned a parking space but I hated it,” she said of her job at a division of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of California.

At the same time, she was becoming more involved at her synagogue, where she became an adult bat mitzvah, served on the board and helped lead Shabbat morning services at Temple Beth El of South Orange County.

“I realized I just loved it,” she said. “I thought, ‘This isn’t a dress rehearsal. I could become a rabbi.’ It was an aha moment, an answer to a question I didn’t know I asked.”

Tuling will join Congregation Kol Haverim as senior rabbi in July. She comes to the congregation from Temple Beth Israel of Plattsburgh, New York, where she has been serving since 2012.

Tuling’s path to the rabbinate has been unconventional in a number of ways.

Growing up in Southern California, she attended a liberal denomination of Christianity.

“I was raised in Orange County. That’s the home of the megachurch. I fell away from it as a teenager. I had a lot of questions about God. In technical terms, I was what’s known as a seeker, someone who needs their religious expression to match their understanding of their world. It’s not uncommon; there are quite a lot of seekers in the world,” she said. “That’s why I ended up converting. At the core of it, I needed it to make sense. I always felt drawn to Judaism. We have this idea that people who convert, they have souls that were Jewish to begin with; it’s a homecoming. My conversion was a gradual process. It went from I really like Judaism to maybe I’ll convert to I will convert.”

Although she said she has “great respect for the other movements,” Tuling said she strongly identified with Judaism’s Reform movement. She was ordained through the movement’s Hebrew Union College, and also holds a Master of Philosophy in Hebraic and Cognate Studies and a Doctor of Philosophy in Hebraic and Cognate Studies, both from the college’s Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati.

“I would describe Rabbi Tuling as warm, energetic, totally accessible to all ages.”

–Judy Kulick

While she was certain of her path to become a rabbi, the start of her journey was a little bumpy.

“Unfortunately my first husband was not totally on board with the idea. It meant selling all our stuff. We had to move to Israel that first year. He had the right to be uh-uh. To his credit, he followed as long as he could,” said Tuling, who was ordained in 2004.

The couple’s son, who is in high school, will be moving to Glastonbury with Tuling and her second husband, Tom Tuling.

She said living in Israel was a challenge at first.

“In school during the first few months, there was homesickness and it was a cultural shock moving to a new country. I had never been to Israel. I was still learning Hebrew. I had just made a major change. At those first points, I was sitting on the steps, crying along the lines of, ‘Oh my God, what have I done?’” she remembered. “It was as much homesickness as culture shock as being in a foreign country as changing careers.”

She soon found her rhythm.

“I’ve been remarkably sure of myself. This is my calling. My family has been remarkably supportive,” she said. “When I get setbacks, when things are difficult – and even when it’s your calling, you still have days when things are hard – I don’t regret it. To hear a calling is a real blessing. I feel profoundly blessed even on the hard days.”

Tuling’s varied background serves her well in her role as a congregational rabbi.

“I’m fairly well-rounded. I have business experience, I have management experience. With my PhD I have really solid deep tradition Jewish and knowledge. I have con-

"It's an amazing community. This congregation has just been so amazing, front to back. I am so thrilled to come to serve them and be their rabbi. It was a real easy choice. Glastonbury is so lovely. It's a nice place to live."

–Rabbi Kari Tuling

gregational experience, teaching and preaching and leading services. When I went into congregational work, I found a talent I didn't know I had. I think my greatest strength is pastoral care, helping people with major transitions in life," she said. "We're called to do a lot of things. You really have to be willing to grow in a lot of areas."

She's looking forward to getting to know the community as a whole and seeing how she can be of help. While in Pennsylvania, she started a nonprofit start-up called The Oasis Project, an afterschool program for providing tutoring and mentoring to homeless kids in temporary housing, created through coalition-building with an interfaith council, the department of social services, a homeless shelter and three public school districts. She also developed a relationship with the local state university and gained official recognition as the first Jewish chaplain on that campus.

"I would describe Rabbi Tuling as warm, energetic, totally accessible to all ages," said Judy Kulick, president of Kol Haverim. "Rabbi Tuling has an amazing ability to relate well to all age groups from young preschoolers to seniors. She has an uncanny ability to listen well and respond to that particular person with those particular issue. Not only is she totally accessible, she is also a scholar. ... Scholarly and accessible, a unique combination! We feel truly blessed to have found Rabbi Kari and look forward to many year together."

Tuling is working on a book with the Jewish Publication Society/University of Nebraska Press called "Thinking about God: Jewish Views" with a tentative publication date of August 2019. She's close to turning in a completed manuscript.

She said the book has two goals.

"The first is to acquaint the reader with the variety of Jewish responses to the basic questions of theology; the second is to allow the reader become more sophisticated and knowledgeable in thinking about God, regardless of religious background," Tuling said.

She's excited about a number of aspects of her new congregation, including its commitment to education as well as their group for senior citizens.

"It's a great congregation. I hope to do interesting things with services with tot Shabbat and things like that. I want to help everyone take one step closer, whether it's volunteering or taking classes or services," she said. "It's an amazing community. This congregation has just been so amazing, front to back. I am so thrilled to come to serve them and be their rabbi. It was a real easy choice. Glastonbury is so lovely. It's a nice place to live. It had good schools. It just seemed like this is going to be a really great match." GL

Rabbi Kari Tuling will lead her first service in town on July 7. Congregation Kol Haverim is at 1079 Hebron Avenue. To learn more, visit kolhaverim.org.

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Emma DiLauro

Courtesy photo

LIFE
student of the month

As is our custom, our student of the month will be graduating from Glastonbury High School later in June. Emma DiLauro has agreed to answer several questions for us about her time at GHS, her activities and interests outside of school, her family, and her hopes and dreams for the future.

1. Please tell us about your interests and activities at GHS and in the community.

I am involved in a variety of activities at GHS. I am the president of my class, vice president of student council, and one of two student representatives to the board of education. Along with these positions, I am also a member of the Interact, Model United Nations, and Mock Trial clubs.

I have also had the wonderful opportunity to be involved with several programs outside of school. The summer before junior year I was selected to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership seminar for the state of Connecticut. Through this organization I was also able to fly out to Chicago to attend a World Leadership Congress where I discussed ideas about

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global citizenship with students from 15 countries around the world. In addition, I attended both the American Legion's Girls State and Girls Nation program the summer before my senior year. During these programs, I first participated in a week-long simulation of the Connecticut government. I was then chosen as one of two girls from Connecticut to be flown down to Washington, DC, for a simulation of the federal government.

2. Please tell us about a special interest that has been an important part of your life.

One special interest of mine has always been student council. After being elected in fourth grade and attending all the meetings that year, I was subsequently hooked and have been a devoted member ever since. I currently serve as the vice president at GHS, but I've held various roles over the years.

Through my involvement with student council at GHS I have been provided with many amazing experiences. I've watched as my peers finished donating blood for the first time, I've seen 60 students competing in field day games in order to raise money for a local charity, and I've witnessed kindergartners marching proudly in their hand-made masks during our children's holiday party.

Student council has been very influential in my life. I've been able to see our events come to life, learning that hard work, passion, and dedication enable success. Student council also inspired me to pursue my ideas after I was able to help pioneer new events like a student council field-trip to a homeless shelter and a Movie night at the middle school.

3. What is your fondest memory of your time at Glastonbury High?

It's really hard to pinpoint one specific memory that I am most fond of. Both the prom and the Powderpuff Game have been some of my favorites. But I think I am most fond of all the small, funny moments that have occurred during my classes, especially those during senior year. I love how close our class has become and I'm really going to miss the friendships that my classmates and I share.

4. Please tell us a bit about your activities outside of school, such as volunteering in the community.

Outside of school I work as a hostess at 2Hopewell and spend a lot of time volunteering. Each year I complete more than 100 hours of volunteer work and was recently honored to receive the President's Volunteer Service Award. Some of my favorite volunteer projects have been helping to pack 53,000 meals for Feeding Children Everywhere and making fleece-tie blankets for Project Linus.

5. What do you enjoy most about living in Glastonbury?

I really love all the opportunities that living in Glastonbury provides. I have always found that all my teachers have been very dedicated to student success and are always willing to stay after to provide extra help. I also really love how Glastonbury has a great town center with lots of restaurants and shops. I love being able to go get lunch or ice cream with my friends and then going to sit at the fountain or walk down to the boathouse.

6. What do you do when you just want to kick back and have fun?

In my free time I enjoy doing a variety of activities. My favorites are reading, hanging out with my friends, watching movies, and going to the gym.

7. Tell us a bit about your family.

I am the oldest of three children in my family. My brother and sister are twins and are sophomores at GHS. I also have amazing parents for whom I am so grateful. They have always been so supportive of everything I do and have raised me with phrases like "Always be confident" and "Never say I can't."

8. To whom (or what) do you credit your success thus far? Why?

I definitely credit my family for my success thus far. As I mentioned, my parents have always been incredibly supportive and have always motivated me to be the best version of myself as possible. The support from my extended family has also been extremely influential in my life as well. My family always inquires about how different events and seminars went and steal my phone to admire the photos for hours. Their constant support has allowed me to challenge myself and develop confidence in my capabilities, since I know I will always have them to fall back on.

9. What are your plans for college? What would you like to study?

I will be attending The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia in the fall. I am going to major in Government and double major in either Economics or Finance as well.

10. After college, what would you like to do?

I'm not quite sure what I would like to do after college, but I am considering a couple of different options. During college I plan to apply for different internships so that I can work in different governmental capacities to help figure out which I would like the most. I will most likely attend law school right after receiving my undergraduate degree. I also would love to be able to travel and continuing volunteering, so I am considering joining the Peace Corps at some point after college. **GL**

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Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

3 **Annual skate competition,** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Glastonbury skate park, 2143 Main Street. Open to skaters of all abilities. $5 registration fee for competitors, no fee for spectators.

Genealogy group sponsored by the Welsh Society of Western New England, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Participants are asked to bring their Welsh family tree and a lunch dish to share. Reserve a spot by emailing WelshWNE@gmail.com. Directions will be forwarded at that time.

Touch A Truck sponsored by the Exchange Club of Glastonbury, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Gideon Welles School, 1029 Neipsic Road. $5 for anyone older than 2. Rain date June 4, 1 to 5 p.m. gburytat@gmail.com.

4 **Militia Day,** 1 to 4 p.m., Welles-Shipman-Ward House, 972 Main St. $5. 860-633-6890 or hsgct.org.

5 **School board public hearing on school redistricting plan,** 7:30 p.m., town hall council chambers, 2155 Main St. glastonburyus.org.

6 **Town plan and zoning commission**, 7 p.m., town hall council chambers, 2155 Main St. glastonbury-ct.gov.

10 **Summer bird count at various sites**, 7 to 11 a.m., meet at the CT Audubon Center at 7 a.m. to carpool. Insect repellant is essential. 860-633-8402 or ctaudubon.org.

11 **Fourth Annual Poets for Parkinson's with Andy Weatherwax hosting**, 3 to 5 p.m., the Congregational Church in South Glastonbury, 949 Main Street. $25. Tickets online at fundraise.michaeljfox.org/poets. Donations also accepted at the door.

Land Heritage Coalition of Glastonbury hike along Roaring Brook with Brian Chiffer, 1 p.m. Meet at Grange Pool on Hopewell Road. Moderately difficult. Bad weather will cancel. Contact Charley Smith, 860-508-1844.

Free farm tasting, 1 to 4 p.m., Killam and Bassette Farmstead, 14 Tryon Street. 860-833-0095.

12 **Board of education**, 7:30 p.m., town hall council chambers, 2155 Main St. 860-652-7961 or glastonburyus.org.

13 **Town council**, 7 p.m., town hall council chambers, 2155 Main St. 860-652-7710 or glastonbury-ct.gov

15 **Open house and discussion of colonial medicines and herbs with Miss Rebekah**, 2 to 4 p.m., Welles-Shipman-Ward House, 972 Main St. $5. Reservations required. 860-633-6890.

17 **A traditional afternoon tea,** 2 to 4 p.m., Congregational Church in South Glastonbury, 949 Main Street. $30 before June 1, then $35. Deadline June 10. 860-633-8402 or ctaudubon.org.

20 **Town plan and zoning commission**, 7 p.m., town hall council chambers, 2155 Main St. glastonbury-ct.gov.

Second Annual CT River Valley Classic Golf Tournament, Glastonbury Hills Country Club. Day starts with registration at 11. $175. 860-659-3587 or crvchamber.org.

26 **Board of education,** 7:30 p.m., town hall council chambers, 2155 Main St. 860-652-7961 or glastonburyus.org.

27 **Town council,** 7 p.m., town hall council chambers, 2155 Main St. 860-652-7710 or glastonbury-ct.gov

B.Y.O.C. (Bring Your Own Craft), 6:30 to 8 p.m., Welles Turner Memorial Library, 2407 Main St., $, 860-652-7720 or wtmlib.com.

28 **Glastonbury Farmers' Market**, 4 to 7 p.m., Hubbard Green.

LIVING *your best* LIFE

‘What life needs to be all about’

Volunteer’s activities rooted in faith

by Mara Dresner
Staff Writer

Photo by Lisa Bisson

Eileen Cullinane’s interest in gardening began when she was a young child.

“A spring in our backyard in New York formed a little island and I would plant and nurture mosses, violets and other wildflowers there. By summer it would dry up and I would occupy myself with feeding birds and helping my mother plant flowers; she also loved gardening,”

Eileen Cullinane, a parishioner of St. Dunstan Church, is a long-time volunteer who oversees the church’s garden plot in the Glastonbury Community Garden.

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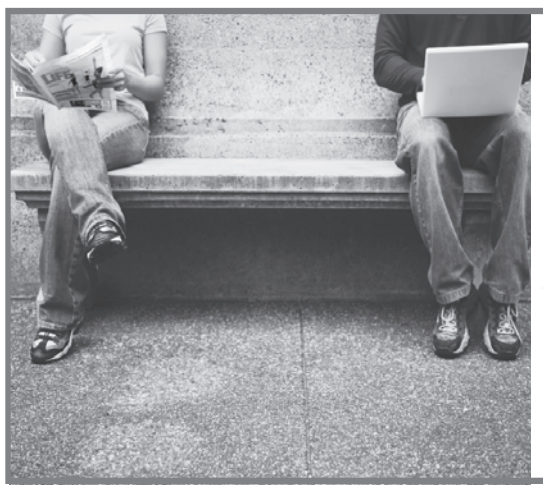

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Cullinane recalled.

Today, her love of gardening intersects with her desire to make the world a better place, growing food for the St. Dunstan Pantry Gardens, now in their eighth growing season.

"My interest in vegetable gardening began to blossom after a yearlong social justice study program Denise Weeks and I instituted at St. Dunstan Church called 'JustFaith [Ministries],' a program that was introduced to us by Jack Jezreel from Kentucky. Twelve parishioners, including us, studied materials on poverty, immigration and race, and participated in 'immersions,' visiting food pantries, homeless shelters and soup kitchens. At the completion of the program we were challenged to 'go and make a difference' with the knowledge we learned," Cullinane explained. "Denise went on to teach young, black women to sew at the Catholic Worker House in Hartford and joined the MLK initiative in Glastonbury. My love of gardening provided an answer to the lack of good nutrition in the diets of those who are poor. I learned through my studies that fresh vegetables are rarely eaten because they're not available. St. Dunstan Parish provides food for two pantry shelves on the third Sunday of the month [at] St. Vincent de Paul in Glastonbury and St. Michael's in Hartford's north end. I began this ministry many years ago at the request of a parishioner and Peter Kennedy assisted and oversees it still today. Locally grown vegetables could augment our successful food drives and add the nutrition needed, I thought."

The program had humble beginnings.

"It all began with two raised

Photo by Lisa Brisson

Eileen Cullinane inserts markers in the various beds to identify where the types of vegetables are planted.

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Working to plant for the new season are Mitsuko Yoo, Phyllis Price, Eileen Cullinane, Kathleen Underhill (behind Eileen), Msgr. John McCarthy, and Susan and Peter Sposito.

Photo by Lisa Brisson

beds at Wind Hill Farm on Hebron Avenue. Joanne Townsend, Barbara Mazur, Rose-Marie Braun and Mitsuko Yoo, who had participated in JustFaith, worked together with me at the farm and we raised 300 pounds of vegetables. We had to carry water in the first season and our husbands lent a hand. We attended organic gardening classes to learn about growing vegetables since we were all novices at it. Notices in our parish bulletin brought us additional volunteers. We grew lettuce, tomatoes, peas, string beans, cukes and zucchini," she recalled. "We soon learned from Denise and parishioners Deb and Mike McMahon that if we planted downtown in the community garden, we could grow more and the other gardeners would subsidize our donations when they had an abundance. Our donations grew to 900 pounds, then to 1,200. From the first weekend in June until the gardens were shut down after Labor Day, fresh vegetables were delivered each Saturday to the two pantries."

Cullinane wasn't satisfied with just the produce grown in the church gardens.

"As years passed, I wrote to local farmers asking for help and we were able to extend the season well into fall. Farmers John Yuskevich and Lisa Gutt provided bushels from their farms. Parishioners who had gardens at home would call me and donate from their home gardens and our donations multiplied so that the past three years, 2,000 pounds of fresh fruit and

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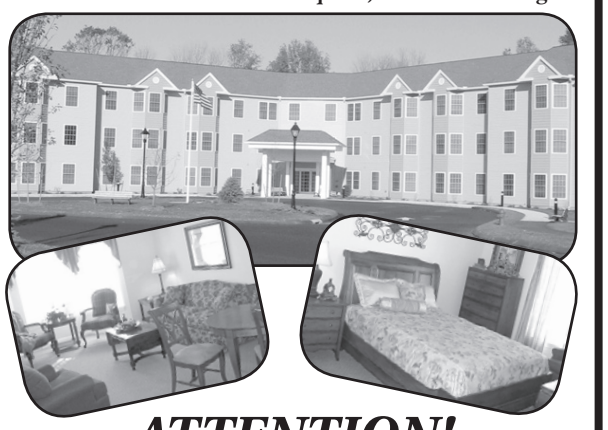

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vegetables have been delivered each year," she said. "This April St. Michael's Church closed but the food pantry committee is keeping the pantry open until the church building is sold. I'm looking for additional opportunities to provide wholesome nutrition where it is needed. Volunteers too are always sought to cover vacation times for our regular gardeners. We use an email chain to keep in touch and make sure the gardens are covered for watering during dry spells. Our youth camp has helped weed the past couple of summers and a new youth group will also lend a hand this summer."

About a dozen individuals help Cullinane till, plant, water and harvest each summer.

"Eileen is a warm, gracious woman of deep faith, who is involved in all areas of parish life with a special focus on outreach to those who are most in need. She is talented, generous, humble, grounded, fun-loving, a true friend to many," said Sister Mary O'Neill, pastoral associate at St. Dunstan Church. "One of her most rewarding experiences is the community garden which she began and directs. She is out there with all the volunteers planting and caring for the vegetables which she then delivers to the people at St. Michael's Church in Hartford and also to Glastonbury programs and residents that are in need of food. The community garden is one of the many outcomes of the JustFaith Ministry."

Cullinane, who has been a Glastonbury resident for 50 years, has a bachelor's degree in social studies and a master's in human development/gerontology. She's owned a business for 40 years in East Hartford with her two sons, distributing heating and cooling equipment to contractors in New England.

She serves as a trustee at St. Dunstan Parish.

"You sit on the parish council and the finance committee and you assist the pastor in decision making regarding the parish. Our parish is unique in that is an extension of our families. Although I don't know every single person, I feel a kinship to all and most know me. I was a founding member of the parish when we were formed from St. Paul's Parish back in the 70s," Cullinane said.

"Eileen is an amazing woman, an outstanding leader in the parish and in the community. She is the first woman trustee in our parish and the first member of our church to receive the prestigious St. Joseph Medal Award from the Archbishop at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. She initiates, organizes and directs so many programs and activities, and is always right there working with those involved," O'Neill said of her and her late husband, Harry. "A founding member of the parish, Eileen and her husband organized Christmas in April each year, working with and directing close to 100 students, helping them to repair and update the homes of parishioners in need. They also brought students to St. Elizabeth's House in Hartford on a regular basis where they served meals to needy Hartford residents. Each year Eileen organizes parishioners of all ages to assist in a parish birthday celebration for the residents at Naubuc Green. She has initiated and now coordinates a very popular monthly senior luncheon at the church. Wherever there is a need, Eileen is there to do something about it."

Cullinane said that her desire to help others goes back to her youth, when as a teen, she visited orphans, cancer hospitals and rehab facilities to lend a hand.

"I find this work, and it is work, very rewarding. In reaching out to others, I've made friends in all walks of life, across all social stratas and ethnicities," she said. "I have a deep faith that tells me this is what life needs to be all about. The benefits are rewarding for me and those who receive them." **GL**

Photo by Lisa Brisson

Eileen Cullinane talks with Peter Sposito before he finishes tilling the two garden plots at the Glastonbury Community Garden where they will grow vegetables to feed the hungry.

Events *spotlight*

Traditional afternoon tea

Photo by Duffy

Militia Day

Courtesy photo

Militia Day

June 4, 1 to 4 p.m.

Welles-Shipman-Ward House, 972 Main Street, South Glastonbury

860-633-6890 or hsgct.org

The colonial militia is looking for new recruits. Are you prepared? Visitors to this event, which will feature musket firing and artillery demonstrations, will be able to step back in time and watch a militia unit drill on the property of the historic home.

Hike along Roaring Brook

June 11, 1 p.m.

Meet at the Grange pool on Hopewell Road

Charley Smith, 860-508-1844

Brian Chiffer, a local dentist and president of the Historical Society of Glastonbury, will lead this hike. He has studied the businesses and industries that existed along Roaring Brook, has written and lectured extensively on the subject, and is involved in the historic preservation project at the former Hopewell Mill site on Matson Hill Road.

The one-mile hike is steep and tricky in places and is rated moderately difficult. It will be canceled in case of bad weather.

A traditional afternoon tea

June 17, 2 to 4 p.m.

The Congregational Church in South Glastonbury, 949 Main Street

ctaudubon.org/center-at-glastonbury or 860-633-8402

The tea, a fundraiser for the Connecticut Audubon Society, will feature a variety of sandwiches along with a sweetbread, scones with clotted cream and jam, strawberries and an assortment of cookies and cakes, as well as freshly brewed teas. The event will include a tea cup raffle with gift baskets with a variety of themes and a multimedia program about the Connecticut River from Hartford to Middletown presented by Andrew Dasinger, a wildlife expert. Tickets are $30 until June 1, when the price will increase to $35, with a deadline of June 10. **GL**

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Slice of LIFE

photos by Lisa Brisson

Trunk of Treasures

After 41 years, the almost-forgotten time capsule that was locked away under the Eastbury School stage was revealed during a May ceremony. Hundreds of current and former teachers, administrators and students enjoyed refreshments, shared many hugs as they recognized former teachers and classmates, toured classrooms and waited patiently for the big reveal. On stage the "Trunk of Treasures" was opened by current Principal Janet Balthazar and 1976 Principal Raymond Bovich. Guests paged through class lists and photos, examined pottery made by students and read magazines from the times. 1. After the time capsule is opened, Eastbury alum Karen Brown reads from Mrs. Logan's fourth-grade class's "Our Plan for 2,001." 2. The past and the present collide as Raymond Bovich, who was Eastbury's principal in 1976, is welcomed to the event by current principal Janet Balthazar. 3. Luis Marques checks out the art work created by his 8-year-old daughter Lexi, who is an Eastbury third-grader. 4. Sue Woodward, who taught fourth grade at Eastbury from 1970-2000, happily signs in. 5. Principal Janet Balthazar's 17-month-old son Colin isn't sure what to make of the Eastbury School mascot named Ellie the Elephant. 6. Devin McHenry, a fourth-grader at Eastbury, poses with Ellie the Eastbury mascot. 7. Former students and teachers, including Judy Stearns, Judy Goodwin and Della Schultz, look over the items that were inside the Trunk of Treasures. 8. Peggy (Wagner) Chaffee, the former student who inspired the project of finding the time capsule, welcomes her former kindergarten teacher Judy Stearns. 9. Former Eastbury Principal Raymond Bovich, along with other former staff members and alumni page through the materials that were kept in the Trunk of Treasures for the past 41 years. 10. Principal Janet Balthazar and former Principal Raymond Bovich open the Trunk of Treasures in front of a standing room only crowd in the Eastbury School cafeteria. 11. Head custodian and Eastbury alum Lance Weir catches up with former teachers Aileen Delano and Sue Dubois. 12. Third-grade student Abby Illian, 8, shows her writing that was part of a school-wide display to 9-year-old sister Izzy and their mother Karen. 13. Alums Katie (Gilles) Pek and Julie (Titus) Evon look through the class lists found in the Trunk of Treasures. 14. Assistant Superintendent Rosemary Tralli speaks about her own fond memories of attending elementary school at Eastbury.

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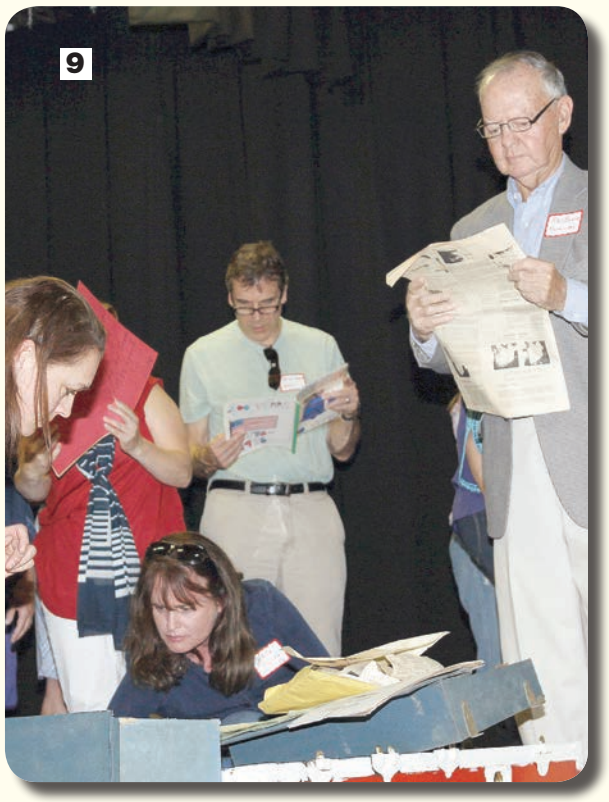
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summer living

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Summer *Living*

Try something new

Adventuresome cures for a summertime slump

Zipping above the surface of the water is one of many adventures at Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park in Portland

by Nancy Thompson
LIFE Staff

The lazy, hazy days of summer. They're fun, except that all that laziness could easily slide into boring. No worries, though. We have lots of great ideas to inject some adventure into your life.

In the trees

Storrs Adventure Park

There are ropes courses with a twist.

Visitors navigate through platforms in the trees – connected by bridges made of cable, wood, rope and zip lines – that form aerial trails. They're color-coded by difficulty, ranging from beginner to advanced.

Climbers receive a safety orientation and wear climbing harnesses at all times. Guides are on hand throughout the courses.

Say "Storrs" and most people will think of the University of Connecticut. But it is also home to the Storrs Adventure Park, a forest climbing park where visitors can experience adventure in the trees.

In all, the park has 15 zip lines, four difficulty levels and more than 100 bridges.

Tickets are available for two- and three-hour admissions, for groups of 10 or more, and for two-hour birthday parties. Prices vary by age and activity and range from $22 for two hours for a college student with ID to $47 for a three-hour climb for visitors age 12 and older.

The park is open daily through September 4, Sunday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Storrs Adventure Park is located at 2007 Storrs Road, Storrs. More information at Storrsadventurepark.com, 860-946-0606 or info@storrsadventurepark.com

Nomads Outdoor Adventure

Nomads Outdoor Adventure offers another treetop experience.

The South Windsor park, which claims to be the newest and most exciting such attraction, has six courses and more than 70 aerial challenges for visitors of varying abilities.

Tickets are available for three-hour sessions and range from $28 to $38 depending on age.

A night climb/twilight special is available Sunday through Thursday during the park's last two hours at a discounted rate.

During the summer, the park is open daily from 10 a.m. until dark.

Nomads Outdoor Adventure is

June 10
10 am - 6 pm
June 11
Noon - 6 pm
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www.storkclubs.com

located at 240 Governors Highway, South Windsor. More information at nomadsadventurequest.com, 860-290-1117 or info@nomadsadventurequest.com.

In the air

Fearless Flyers Academy

Learn to fly through the air, with or without the greatest of ease, at the Fearless Flyers Academy in Mystic. The school also offers classes in trampoline gymnastics, aerial fitness and a variety of aerial fabric activities.

Two-hour trapeze lessons, the academy's most popular, teach students how to perform many of the tricks they've seen at a circus and is available to everyone, from novices to accomplished gymnasts.

The classes are open to everyone from children age 6 and older. No prior experience is necessary, but there is a 180-pound limit.

Students in trampoline gymnastics classes learn proper techniques and skills, using safety-harness systems, crash mats and other safety equipment seldom found in traditional trampoline parks.

Again, no experience is necessary, and the classes are open to anyone six and older.

Aerial fitness classes focus on strength, conditioning and flexibility in the areas that aerialists use most, especially shoulders, back and core muscles. Other classes include aerial fabrics, aerial static trapeze and aerial hoops. There's also a class that teaches students how to become a catcher, the person who snags the trapeze flyer in the air.

Fearless Flyers Academy is located at 800 Flanders Road, Mystic. More information at info@fearlesstrapeze.com, 860-245-4154 or info@FearlessTrapeze.com.

Flight Trampoline Park

Flight Trampoline Park in New Britain has more than 13,000 square feet with 31 trampolines, including a dedicated area gives children 6 and younger. It offers open jump sessions, special activities include Club Flight with lasers, and dodgeball.

Mondays from 4 to 9 p.m. are designated as family nights, and Tuesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. are set aside for visitors with special needs. Admission fees vary by activity and age, with discounts on family nights and special needs nights.

Riding an oversized tube down three whitewater rapids is only part of the fun at Farmington River Tubing in New Hartford

Flight Trampoline Park is located at 140 Production Court, New Britain. More information at flighttrampolinepark.com/Hartford, 860-505-8218 or hartford.info@flighttrampolinepark.com.

Soarin' Indoors

This Manchester attraction has two aerial ropes courses, one that is 2.5 feet off the ground and another 12 feet up. Both have similar challenges, such as rope bridges, cargo nets, swings and zip lines. Young guests, who must be tall enough to reach 60 inches while standing flat on the floor, will negotiate a series of increasingly difficult challenges.

Harnesses and cables are used for

WHAT'S ON STAGE THIS SUMMER!

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June 2 - 18 / Fri. & Sat. @ 8 pm / Sun. @ 2 pm
Tickets $19 - $25

From Stephen Karam (2016 Tony Award for Best Play, *The Humans*) comes the 2012 Pulitzer Prize Finalist "funniest play about human suffering you're likely to ever see."

THE 39 STEPS
August 11 - 27 / Fri. & Sat. @ 8 pm / Sun. @ 2 pm
Tickets $19 - $25

Patrick Barlow's high-speed spoof of Alfred Hitchcock's classic spy movie, this comedy is packed with nonstop laughs, over 150 zany characters (played by only a handful of actors), an on-stage plane crash, and some good old-fashioned romance!

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SACRED FIRE: A TRIBUTE TO SANTANA
Saturday, June 24 at 8 pm

SATINWOOD: LEGENDARY SONGS
Saturday, July 15 at 8 pm

TICKET TO RIDE: BEATLES TRIBUTE
Saturday, September 16 at 8 pm

LITTLE THEATRE OF MANCHESTER
AT CHENEY HALL

TICKETS OR INFO AT 860-647-9824
WWW.CHENEYHALL.ORG

Summer Living

safety, and trained guides walk around the course to offer help when needed.

Soarin' Indoors has a two-story playscape in the course room that is available for anyone climbing on the adventure course and also as a separate purchase for younger guests who aren't yet ready for the courses. The playscape is divided into a toddler area for children age 1 to 4 and a regular play area for older children.

The facility is open for individuals, groups, corporate events and private parties.

Admission costs $13.95 for children 12 and younger and $18.95 for visitors 13 and older.

Soarin' Indoors is open Monday, and Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. It is located at 422 North Main Street, Manchester.

More information at soarindoors, 860-645-1595.

In and on the water

Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park

Ever thought about jumping off a cliff? You can do it – safely – at this adventure center in one of the biggest brownstone quarries in the world. The park, near the Connecticut River in Portland, also offers 14 zip lines and an extreme rope swing as well as swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, wall-climbing, wakeboarding and, for certified divers, scuba diving.

The cliff heights vary, so beginners can immerse themselves gradually. The "ultimate extreme rope swing" can launch adventuresome visitors more than 20 feet out into the water. The more challenging wall climbs go up more than 70 feet, but there also are a few relatively easy climbs for the less skilled or less brave. The park offers three wakeboard runs, two for beginners and one dedicated to more advanced riders. Kayaks, paddle boards, and other human-powered vehicles and toys are available to rent. The park has also become a popular destination for area dive centers to bring students, and for qualified divers to train and use underwater platforms.

Admission fees depend on activities, with $26 for a general swimming pass, $36 for an adventure sports pass, and $46 for a wakeboard adventure sports pass.

Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park is located at 161 Brownstone Avenue, Portland. More information at Brownstonepark.com, 866-860-0208.

Tubing on the Farmington River

The idea of floating on an oversized tube doesn't sound like an adventure, but Farmington River Tubing's 2.5-mile ride through three sets of white-water rapids is enough to get riders' hearts thumping.

The $20 fee, which must be paid in cash, includes the rental of a specially designed tube, a life jacket and a shuttle bus ride from the take-out point back to the starting point. Riders can tube again the same day for an additional $10. Changing houses and restrooms are available.

It's a good idea to check ahead to get information about hours and river conditions.

Hours vary depending on weather and other factors. Tubing is tentatively available through the middle of June weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., depending on weather. The attraction is open from the middle of June through late August daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and late August through Labor Day weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekdays, dependent on weather and staffing, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. After Labor Day through the middle of September, riders must call for hours and river conditions. Farmington River Tubing is located at 92 Main Street, New Hartford. More info at Farmington rivertubing.com, 860-693-6465.

In the extreme

Empower Leadership & Adventure Center

Empower Leadership & Adventure Center uses terms such as "special agent," heart-pumping, extreme, exhilarating and adrenaline-inducing to describe the activities at its Middletown facility.

The zip line canopy adventure includes a fully guided half-mile journey 40 to 75 feet up in the tree tops, five zip lines ranging from 200 to 650 feet long, two adventure sky bridges and two high ropes climbing challenges.

Participants in the map-and-compass scavenger hunt will piece together clues, find hidden challenges and and overcome obstacles.

Commando rappelling, a special operations adventure and the "Survivor 101 adventure" add an extra element to participants' experiences. Other activities include partner-assisted tree climbing, a four-hour tree-top zip line adventure, an aerial discovery adventure combining zip lines and tree-climbing, a deluxe adventure that combines three challenges into one, parties, and group outings for adults and youths.

The office is open daily during the summer from 8:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. The earliest tour usually leaves between 9 and 9:30 a.m., and the latest tour leaves around 5 or 6 p.m. In the fall, the schedule switches to Tuesday through Sunday.

Empower Leadership & Adventure Center is located at 2011 South Main Street, Middletown. More information at Leadershipsports.com, 860-638-4754 or Office@leadership-sports.com. **GL**

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Fun with food

Eat your way through summer

Every day this summer can be a culinary celebration. From apple strudel and blueberry muffins to veggie burgers and watermelon, there is a day set aside to recognize a wide variety of foods. You can honor some or all of these foods by incorporating them into your diet each day. Try something new. Prepare a memorable meal. For instance, on July 3, serve fried clams with a side of beans and chocolate wafers for dessert. Organize a party with everyone's favorite cheese June 4, perhaps sipping some cognac with it. On August 18, celebrate with fajitas and ice cream pie. Don't forget to post pictures on social media.

June

National Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Month
National Candy Month
National Country Cooking Month
National Dairy Month
National Iced Tea Month
National Papaya Month
National Soul Food Month

1 National Olive Day
1 National Hazelnut Cake Day
2 National Rotisserie Chicken Day
2 National Rocky Road Day
2 National Doughnut Day
3 National Chocolate Macaroon Day
3 National Egg Day
4 National Cheese Day
4 National Cognac Day
5 National Veggie Burger Day
5 National Gingerbread Day
5 National Moonshine Day
6 National Applesauce Cake Day
7 National Chocolate Ice Cream Day
8 National Name Your Poison Day
9 National Strawberry Rhubarb Pie Day
10 National Herbs and Spices Day
10 National Iced Tea Day
10 National Black Cow Day
10 National Rosé Day
11 National Corn on the Cob Day
11 National German Chocolate Cake Day
12 National Peanut Butter Cookie Day
12 National Jerky Day
14 National Strawberry Shortcake Day
14 National Bourbon Day
15 National Lobster Day
16 National Fudge Day
17 National Apple Strudel Day
17 National Eat Your Vegetables Day
17 National Cherry Tart Day
18 National Turkey Lovers' Day
19 National Martini Day
20 National Ice Cream Soda Day
20 National Vanilla Milkshake Day
21 National Peaches 'n' Cream Day
22 National Chocolate Eclair Day
22 National Onion Rings Day
23 National Pecan Sandies Day
24 National Pralines Day
25 National Catfish Day
25 National Strawberry Parfait Day
26 National Chocolate Pudding Day
29 National Almond Buttercrunch Day
30 National Bomb Pop Day (that red, white and blue Popsicle)

July

National Baked Bean Month
National Culinary Arts Month
National Grilling Month
National Horseradish Month
National Hot Dog Month
National Ice Cream Month
National July Belongs to Blueberries Month

1 National Creative Ice Cream Flavors Day
1 National Gingersnap Day
2 National Anisette Day
3 National Fried Clam Day
3 National Eat Your Beans Day
3 National Chocolate Wafer Day
4 National Barbecued Spareribs Day
4 National Caesar Salad Day
5 National Apple Turnover Day
5 National Graham Cracker Day
6 National Fried Chicken Day
7 National Strawberry Sundae Day
7 National Macaroni Day
8 National Chocolate with Almonds Day
9 National Sugar Cookie Day
10 National Piña Colada Day
11 National Rainier Cherry Day
11 National Blueberry Muffin Day
11 National Mojito Day
12 National Pecan Pie Day
12 Eat Your Jello Day
13 National French Fry Day
13 National Beans 'n' Franks Day
14 National Grand Marnier Day
14 National Mac and Cheese Day
15 National Strawberry Rhubarb Day
15 National Tapioca Pudding Day
16 National Corn Fritters Day
16 National Ice Cream Day
17 National Peach Ice Cream Day
18 National Sour Candy Day
18 National Caviar Day
19 National Daiquiri Day
19 National Hotdog Day
20 National Lollipop Day
21 National Junk Food Day
22 National Penuche Fudge Day
23 National Vanilla Ice Cream Day
24 National Tequila Day
25 National Hot Fudge Sundae Day
26 National Bagelfest Day
26 National Coffee Milkshake Day
27 National Scotch Day
27 National Crème Brûlée Day
27 National Chili Dog Day
28 National Milk Chocolate Day
29 National Lasagna Day
29 National Chicken Wing Day
30 National Cheesecake Day
31 National Raspberry Cake Day

August

National Catfish Month
National Peach Month
National Coffee Month
National Goat Cheese Month

1 National Raspberry Cream Pie Day
2 National Ice Cream Sandwich Day
3 National Watermelon Day
3 National Grab Some Nuts Day
4 National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day
5 National Oyster Day
5 National Jamaican Patty Day
5 National Mustard Day
5 Mead Day
6 National Root Beer Float Day
7 National Raspberries 'n' Cream Day
8 National Frozen Custard Day
9 National Rice Pudding Day
10 National S'mores Day
11 National Raspberry Bombe Day
12 National Julienne Fries Day
13 National Prosecco Day
13 National Filet Mignon Day
14 National Creamsicle Day
15 National Lemon Meringue Pie Day
16 National Rum Day
18 National Fajita Day
18 National Ice Cream Pie Day
19 National Soft Ice Cream Day
20 National Chocolate Pecan Pie Day
21 National Spumoni Day
22 National Bao Day (small Chinese steamed buns with filling)
22 National Pecan Torte Day
23 National Sponge Cake Day
24 National Peach Pie Day
24 National Waffle Day
25 National Whiskey Sour Day
25 National Banana Split Day
26 National Cherry Popsicle Day
27 National Pots de Creme Day
28 National Cherry Turnovers Day
29 National Chop Suey Day
30 National Toasted Marshmallow Day
31 National Trail Mix Day

Compiled by Lynn Woike, LIFE Staff
Primary source: National Day Calendar

Summer *Living*

Spark a new interest

The summer season is the time to step out of comfort zones

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

With the warm days of summer approaching, some may find themselves yearning to break out of their typical routine to try something new.

In addition to often simply being enjoyable, trying new activities can also have positive benefits on mental and emotional well-being. According to a post on Psychology Today by Dr. Alex Lickerman, breaking out of a comfort zone often requires a level of courage and forces participants to grow.

For others still, looking to try new things can allow people to create experiences they may have always wanted to try, by picking up a paintbrush or spatula, flying in a hot air balloon or riding a horse.

Culinary classes

For those who wish to experience something new but wish to stay a bit closer to their comfort zone, Sur La Table in Canton offers a variety of hands-on cooking classes every day throughout the year.

"It's really geared toward home cooks just for a new experience, maybe to try some new techniques," culinary lead Trace Alford said. "They're enjoyable, they're fun and they're a great learning experience."

The classes range in topics from Pizza on the Grill and Exploring Italy to baking courses Easy as Pie and French Croissants 101.

"It's a great way to try new things if you aren't familiar with certain cuisines," Alford said. "A lot of people aren't sure about the Thai classes, but most of them then are very impressed because they never realized that it's not as difficult as they thought."

In addition to learning a new skill in the classes, Alford said that he has seen people start to treat the class as a social bonding time.

"A lot of people come for the social component," he said. "There's definitely bonding that happens. I think there are some who even meet in the class and then agree to come to another class together."

Work of art

While the art of cooking is one arena to explore,

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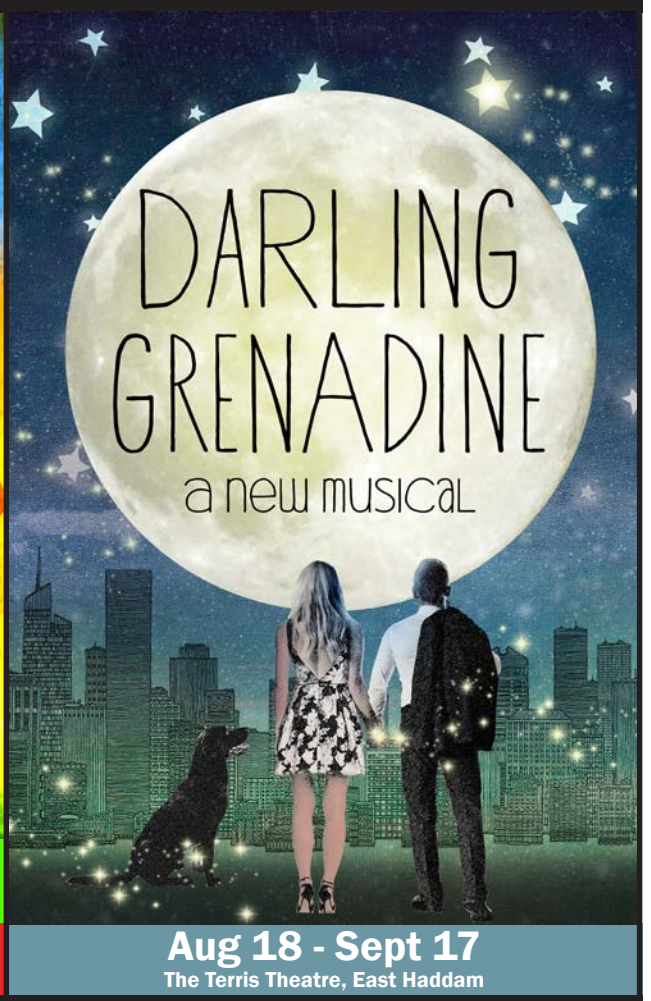

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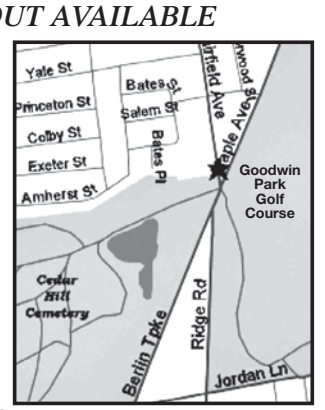

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ANA VILLAFAÑE AS GLORIA ESTEFAN IN ON YOUR FEET! (C) MATTHEW MURPHY.JPG

Summer *Living*

this region also has a variety of art for people to try.

"It's great to try just for the new experience," Farmington Valley Arts Center board member and artist in residence Carol Kaplan said. "We really have something for everybody."

The center offers a variety of classes in different mediums ranging from beginner levels to advanced techniques.

"We have a few exploration-type classes which are for people who think, 'Gee, I wonder if I really like clay. I'll take a couple classes just to see what it's about,'" Kaplan explained. "We also have folks who've had some experience and they want to hone their skills and take it to the next level. It really is something for everyone in a place that can be as rigorous as you want."

The Farmington Valley Arts Center has 18 studios where artists create on a daily basis and Kaplan encourages people to go see what is being made.

"You can come to appreciate art, you can make art or you can watch someone creating it," she said.

The center also offers small classrooms where students can get direct instruction and feedback on their work, but according to Kaplan, it is the atmosphere created there that sets this space apart.

"For many people it's difficult to even get the process started," she said. "You have to feel that it's a safe place for that to happen, and we work to do that."

In many instances, Kaplan said that she has seen new students breathe a sigh of relief the first time they pick up a paintbrush.

"You can almost feel like this exhale," she said. "I think in this increasingly screen- and tech-filled world, just to put your hands in clay, that tactile experience, is very valuable."

Horseback riding

"We have some people come who just want to check it off their bucket list," said Sharon Morin of Hillside Stable in Glastonbury. "A lot of people that haven't ridden before, even the older ones, say it's something they've always wanted to do."

Horseback riding at Hillside Stable is an option for people of all ages and any experience level.

"There's not really too much they need to know beforehand," Morin said. "They need to come with boots with heels and long pants, and we provide the helmets."

Hillside Stable is a small, family-run business. Morin said that her two daughters and niece run the stable, teach lessons and encourage people to try the activity if they never have before.

"A lot of people really enjoy it," Morin said. "Everybody here is friendly and patient, and it's always good to try a new thing."

Adult education

Those looking to try something new but are unsure what exactly is available to them need look no further than their local adult education programs.

"We have something for everyone," Ruth Kozlowski, enrichment program coordinator for West Hartford Adult Education, said. "We have ongoing classes and we just announced a lot of day trips coming up."

Through West Hartford Adult Education, people can take classes in anything ranging from yoga to movie discussions to cookie decorating.

"One of our more popular ones is an Asian market tour and dumpling workshop," Kozlowski said. "One of our instructors takes people to a local Asian supermarket and afterwards they go back to where her husband and she own a tai chi academy and make dumplings."

Those looking to have a one-day experience can peruse the organization's variety of day trips, including an upcoming Titanic History tour in New York City June 3.

"They'll be seeing all these historic buildings related to people who were on the Titanic," Kozlowski explained.

Other upcoming trips include Saratoga horse racing, a tour of the Hudson Valley wineries and a Narragansett Bay Lighthouse cruise.

Regardless of what new activity is explored, people are encouraged to try something new.

"You never know if you'll find out that you really love something," Morin said. **GL**

Hillside Stable is located at 524 Bell St., Glastonbury. Call 860-748-1894 or visit online at www.hillsidestable.net.

Sur La Table is located at 110 Albany Turnpike #609, Canton. Call 860-693-9560 or visit online at www.surlatable.com.

The Farmington Valley Arts Center is located at 25 Arts Center Lane, Avon. Call 860-678-1867 or visit online at www.artsfvac.org.

West Hartford Adult Education is located at 50 South Main St., West Hartford. Call 860-561-6900 or visit online at www.whlifelearn.org.

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Suitcase smarts

Tips from travelers on how to pack

by Alicia B. Smith
Associate Editor

Summer is the season to pack on up and hit the road for sunny destinations, mountainous destination or theme park destinations. It sounds simple enough — pack some sunscreen, an extra pair of comfortable shoes and go.

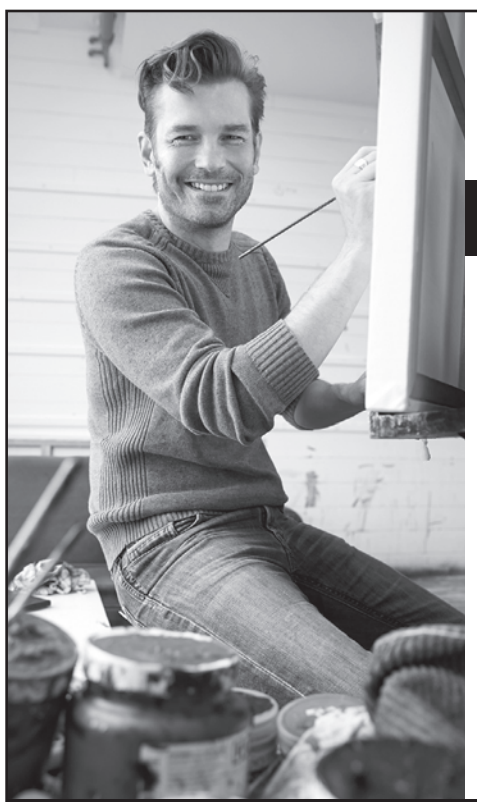
The reality is travel can be a nightmare, packing can be worse and just getting to the destination can be exhausting. We talked to some travelers who are on the go regularly and asked them for some tips on how to make things easier.

Keith Griffin
Researcher/Writer U.S. News & World Report automotive website

I'm currently not traveling as much, but here is the one thing that was my travel tip: pack breakfast. I used to travel a lot to the West Coast covering automotive news for places like The Boston Globe and CarGurus.com, among others. Without fail, I'd be wide-awake by 4 a.m. with scheduled breakfast three or four hours later. So, I always made sure to have instant oatmeal packets or a protein bar (plus a plastic spoon) in my carry-on bag. It made sure my day got off to a healthy start instead of munching on minibar M&Ms. It also allowed me more time to get work done, too, because I didn't need to leave my room in search of breakfast in the early morning.

Tom Devitt
Assistant Men's Basketball Coach University of Hartford

There are three primary reasons for my travel, all business related: Recruiting, competing against opponents at their home arenas, and finally for professional development. The recruiting component can bring with it the most unorthodox travel regimen. There are designated times during the year that college coaches can be out either evaluating or visiting with prospective student-athletes. During these times, we can either attend sanctioned tournaments or individual games. What makes these times so unique is the fact that usually there are only three or four days where you can be out and



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often, you must evaluate two or three tournaments in multiple cities. We may watch one game in a given city, sprint to the airport after, fly across the country, and watch another prospect. This process may repeat itself two or three times during a recruiting weekend.

In terms of your own team playing on the road, there is definitely an organized routine that everyone is in that leads up to the game. You may get in the night before a game to an opponent's city. Often times, we are traveling back home directly after the game that night so our student-athletes can get to class the next morning.

In terms of tips, I think I can focus on two in particular. Less is more. Do not over pack. Especially when I recruit, sometimes I don't have the time to wait at airport baggage claims for luggage. Having fewer items with me may mean I can carry on everything I need onto the plane. It's amazing how few items you need, especially when you are evaluating at recruiting events. In addition, I like to grocery shop on the road, especially when I recruit. It becomes a cheaper and much healthier alternative to eating out. Most hotels now have refrigerators or kitchenettes, so it is easy to store fruit, bottled waters or even deli meats. Drinking water on the road is important, as being in the air can dehydrate one quickly.

This sounds basic, but I cannot travel without my cell phone. The reasons though are many. I have direction apps downloaded to help me navigate anywhere I happen to find myself. I also have apps for discount travel and hotel options as well. Most importantly, I constantly scroll through family photos during down times as I always look forward to arriving home soon to my loved ones.

Travel is sometimes exciting, but never nearly as exciting as coming home.

Melissa Albright
Vice President
Wethersfield Travel

Whenever I'm off and have to pack, whether it's just for me or for whole family, I always have a list started days before I even begin packing. I have a basket of travel items in the closet including travel size toiletries, stain sticks, Ziploc bags, et cetera, that I'll go through first and grab what I need. I'm a fan of the Packing Pro app, which allows you to create customized lists based on the type of trip (Disney, beach, weekend, camping). With a list I'm more apt to feel like I didn't forget anything when I get on my way.

I always make sure I have my drawstring laundry bag to put all our dirty laundry in. It's a good size and can hold about a week's worth of laundry for my whole family. Big or small, having a spot to put your dirty laundry keeps your hotel room somewhat organized.

These are some [often forgotten] items I share with families with young kids that are going on a beach vacation:: night light, crib sheet, swim diapers, container to fill up milk at buffet restaurant, Thermos to keep milk cold or to keep hot water for formula bottles, Ziploc bags or small containers to stock up at the breakfast buffet for easy accessible snacks during the day, painter's tape and binder clips/clothes pins to cover outlets, pin up wires and secure blanket to stroller for sun protection when it's windy.

Jonathan Appell
Monument Conservator

I travel for work and I do events. Not only do I have to pack, I am like a traveling road show. When I attend gravestone preservation workshops I bring tools and supplies and also clothes and also, because I travel to different regions, I pack clothes for different regions.

I rarely fly.

Right now I am at an event in Raleigh, North Carolina, exhibiting, products sale.

I usually do my clothes last because I have so much.

Washing everything, biggest thing that is challenge for me. I work outside. I have work clothes and often need to change.

I end up bringing too much stuff; it's really hard to plan adequately.

It's a challenge. I could not have a big enough vehicle no matter what.

Occasionally I do, that is very different when you are flying which I do sometimes. It's super challenging. You don't want to bring too much

I went to California, my bag ended up somewhere else because I checked it and didn't have anything. Seasoned travelers only have carry-ons. If you lose your bag then you have nothing.

That literally happened to me and I had to go buy some stuff. Eventually my bag showed up a day or two later.

You can never know what you are going to need. Also predicting the weather, you go somewhere and it's unseasonably cool. It's hard to predict.

If there is a store around and you have the financial resources, but who wants spend their vacation time in a store. **GL**

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New ideas for packing a picnic

by Sloan Brewster
Staff Writer

There are old school picnics and there are modern, fancy spreads.

Some prefer it the old-fashioned way, packing a few sandwiches and some chips and spreading it all on a blanket on the ground, or grabbing a pound of hamburger, some hotdogs, fresh buns and a side salad and trekking to the park to grill the chow under the sunlight.

Then there are the people who want everything gourmet, with an elaborate and delicious twist on the traditional picnic, including specialty sandwiches or hot, delectable dishes.

Hall's Market in West Hartford has offerings for an outdoor picnic and barbeque. "Old school and delicious," co-owner Jen Hettrick said of the offerings. What will make the grilling experience so tasty are the burgers, she said.

There's the spicy Texas burger, the popular cheddar bacon, the black and blue with crumbled blue cheeses and steak seasoning. There are also salmon burgers, black bean burgers and turkey burgers and a number of different brands of hotdogs.

Pair the meat with side salads – such as potato, macaroni salad or coleslaw – which are made daily and on hand at the deli, Hettrick said. There's no shortage of chips either, and plenty of cold drinks to pack into coolers.

Fitzgeralds Foods in Simsbury has offerings suited to the gourmet palate. There are salads made with a mesclun mix, including gourmet varieties such as a mixed berry salad with blueberries, blackberries, strawberries and raspberries with gorgonzola cheese and blueberry pomegranate dressing, said co-owner Sandy Devoe.

The store also offers a concert menu for those planning to attend an outdoor concert and looking to enjoy a nice spread with the music.

Though owner Brian Devoe said this year's menu would be different, last year it was a grilled chicken sandwich with a side salad and a cannoli packed in a cooler.

He also recommends cheese or fruit platters. Gourmet wraps and sandwiches are made daily as well..

"I've seen people bring rotisserie chicken [to concerts] because they're hot," he said.

There is also pizza and a case full of entrees, such as shepherds' pie, pasta dishes, baked chicken and quiche that staff can warm up in the microwave so picnickers can have hot choices.

Hall's also has sandwiches, including meatball and Philly cheese steak and a daily hot meal for $5. **GL**

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Take a dip this summer

Glastonbury has four spots available for public use to help residents keep cool this summer.

Addison Pool
415 Addison Road
Daily admission: $3 for children, $5 for adults, no charge for children younger than 2. Summer pass: $95 for a household, $75 for an individual. Yearly pass (includes Glastonbury High School pool in the winter and all pools during summer season):$139 for a household, $109 for an individual. Senior pass for people 60 and older: no charge with proof of age. Replacement pass: $25 for each lost pass

Recreational swim is open weekdays 12:30 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.; weekends 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Adult swim is held daily 5 to 6 p.m. The pool will close at 7:30 p.m. starting July 30 and at 7 p.m. starting August 6.

Grange Pool
500 Hopewell Road
Daily admission: $3 for children, $5 for adults, no charge for children younger than 2. Summer pass: $95 for a household, $75 for an individual. Yearly pass (includes Glastonbury High School pool in the winter and all pools during summer season): $139 for a household, $109 for an individual. Senior pass for people 60 and older: no charge with proof of age. Replacement pass: $25 for each lost pass

Recreational swim is open weekdays 12:30 to 5:30 p.m., weekends noon to 5:30 p.m. Adult swim is held daily 5:30 to 6 p.m. The pool will close at 7 p.m. starting August 6.

Glastonbury High School pool
330 Hubbard Street
Open to residents only
Daily admission: $3 for children, $5 for adults, no charge for children younger than 2. Summer pass: $95 for a household, $75 for an individual. Yearly pass (includes Glastonbury High School pool in the winter and all pools during summer season): $139 for a household, $109 for an individual. Senior pass for people 60 and older: no charge with proof of age. Replacement pass: $25 for each lost pass.

Adult swim is open weekdays 6 to 7:30 a.m., 12:15 to 2 p.m., 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., weekend noon to 1:30 p.m. Recreational swim Mondays and Wednesdays 2 to 3 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays 2 to 3 p.m., 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Fridays 2 to 4 p.m., 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., weekends 1:30 to 4 p.m. Schedule begins when school lets out. Pool will be closed August 22 through 30 to prepare for the start of school.

Eastbury Pond
39 Fisher Hill Road
Daily parking: $5 weekdays, $8 weekends, no charge for people who walk or bike in. Car stickers $25 for two vehicles, $15 for each additional vehicle. Replacement sticker $15 for each lost sticker. Recreational swim daily 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m., adult swim daily 4:30 to 5 p.m. Pool will close at 7:30 p.m. starting July 30 and at 7 p.m. starting August 6. **GL**

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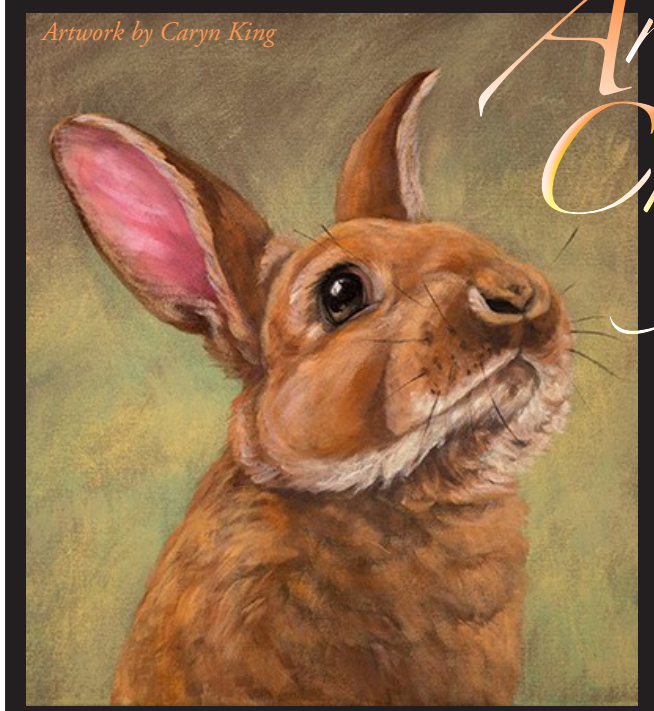
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This development is financed through the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), receives state grant funds from the Department of Housing (DOH), with State and Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits. Income Restrictions Apply.

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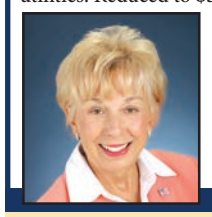

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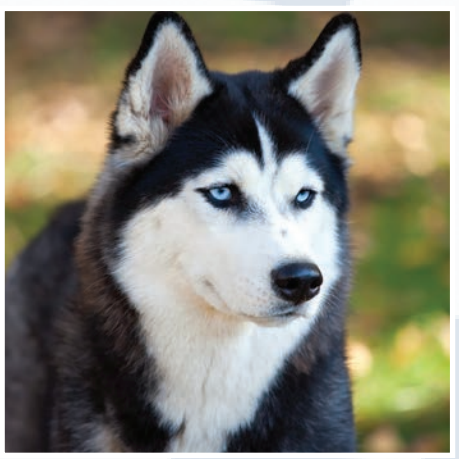

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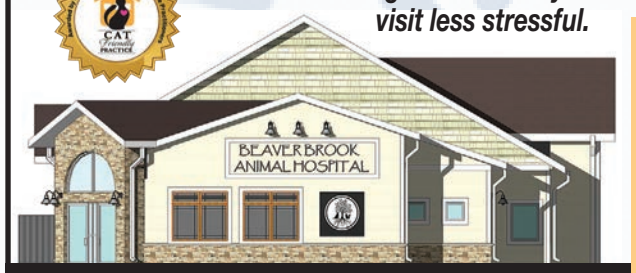

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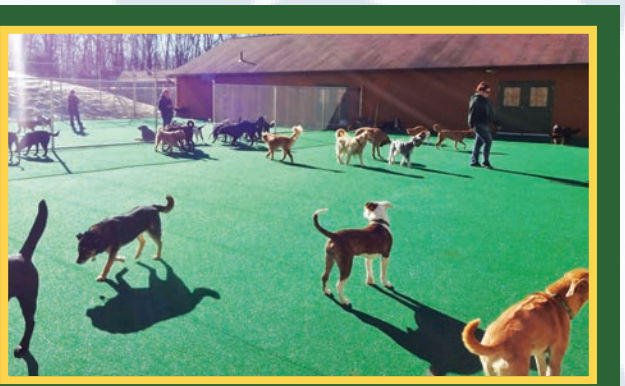

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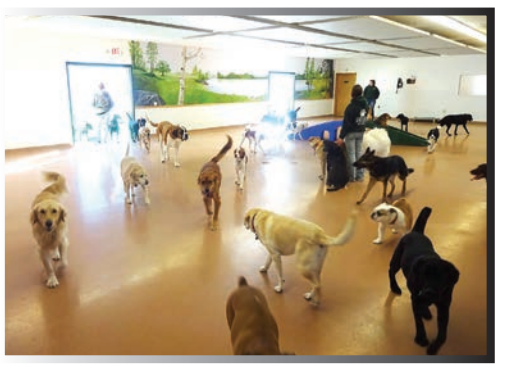

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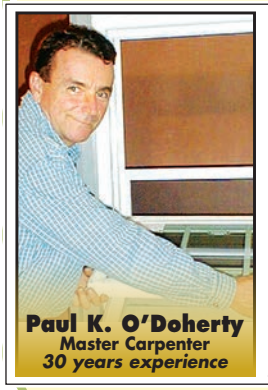

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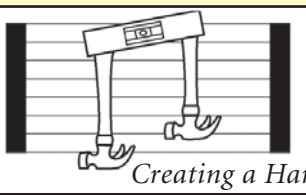

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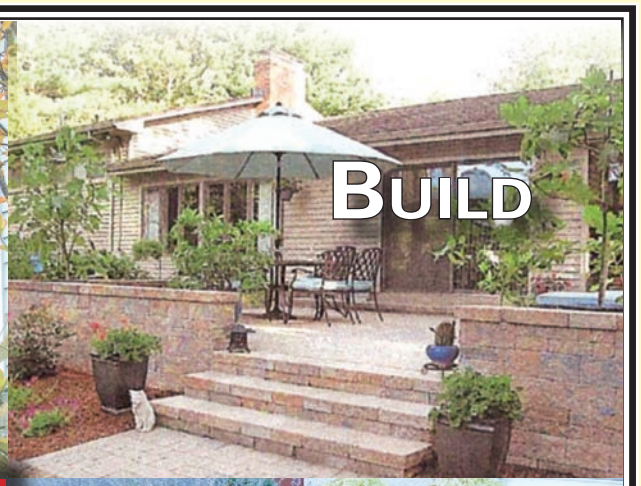

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Note from Nancy

Beam me up to Scotland, Scottie

There's often a lot of concern about droughts in the summer. For me, the big drought problem this summer is "Droughtlander," the pause between seasons of Outlander, my obsession of the moment. For those who don't know, that's the television adaption of Diana Gabaldon's series of books about Claire Randall, a time-traveling English nurse who visits Scotland after serving in World War II and ends up in the highlands in the 18th century.

The STARZ series is wonderful, with a compelling story line, sweeping vistas of the Scottish highlands, unforgettable music and great acting.

OK. Let's be truthful. It also happens to have one of the most gorgeous hunks in the history of the world playing the male lead.

In real life, his name is Sam Hueghan. He's a Scottish actor with serious credentials and a reputation as a really nice guy. He plays Jamie Alexander Malcolm MacKenzie Fraser, an unusually well-educated clansman from time of the Jacobite uprising in the 1740s. And he has women all over the world swooning with desire.

I pretend that my obsession with the television series and, more recently with the novels themselves, is due to my love of well written historical fiction and a good story. But yeah, Jamie definitely has added to my interest of all things Outlander.

I mentioned the series to a friend a few months ago. She's an avid reader but hadn't heard of Gabaldon's novels. Not long after, she emailed me this message: "I am ruined, completely ruined! I can think of nothing else but 18th century Scottish history! I am researching these historical battles, castles, and succession of kings. If someone talks to me about what I did that day, or what I should have done, I just look at them and think, 'but you just don't understand about the Battle of Culloden.'"

Facebook has several pages devoted to Jamie Fraser, with daily postings of photos and some fairly racy comments including these: "I'm old now but not dead. WOW!" And, "It's rare that a guy makes me go weak at the knees, but this guy most certainly does."

I started browsing through Outlander merchandise online and found a mug that says, "I flew all the way to Scotland. I walked through a circle of stones… and still no Jamie Fraser. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?" I sent a photo of the mug to my college roommate, a big fan who by coincidence is going to Scotland this summer. "I hope I have better luck!" was her immediate reply.

It's possible to buy Christmas tree ornaments with Jamie and Claire's portraits, a shower curtain with the show's logo, cell phone cases for iPhones and several Android models, life-sized standing cutouts of Jamie and Claire in a choice of rustic Scottish or posh French attire, adorable teddy bears of both characters, again with various outfits, shawls and scarves in both the MacKenzie and Fraser tartans, copies of Claire's knit cowl, fingerless gloves and handless arm warmers, wine charms, adult coloring books – I'm assuming that "adult" refers to the difficulty and not to the content – jewelry, glasses, steins, and flasks with logos or quotes, a custom-made copy of one of Claire's dresses for $455, a pillow that says "Looking for my Fraser in a world full of Randalls," and a T-shirt declaring that "My other husband is an 18th-century red-haired Scottish highlander."

My favorite – not that I'm buying it – showed up in a search on Etsy, the popular site for hand-crafted items.

It's a soy candle with "an earthy clean scent of juniper berries and sage with a hint of woods and eucalyptus" and priced at $15. It's called "Under Jamie's kilt." – *Nancy Thompson*

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BY MARK DIXON
WFSB METEOROLOGIST [AMS]

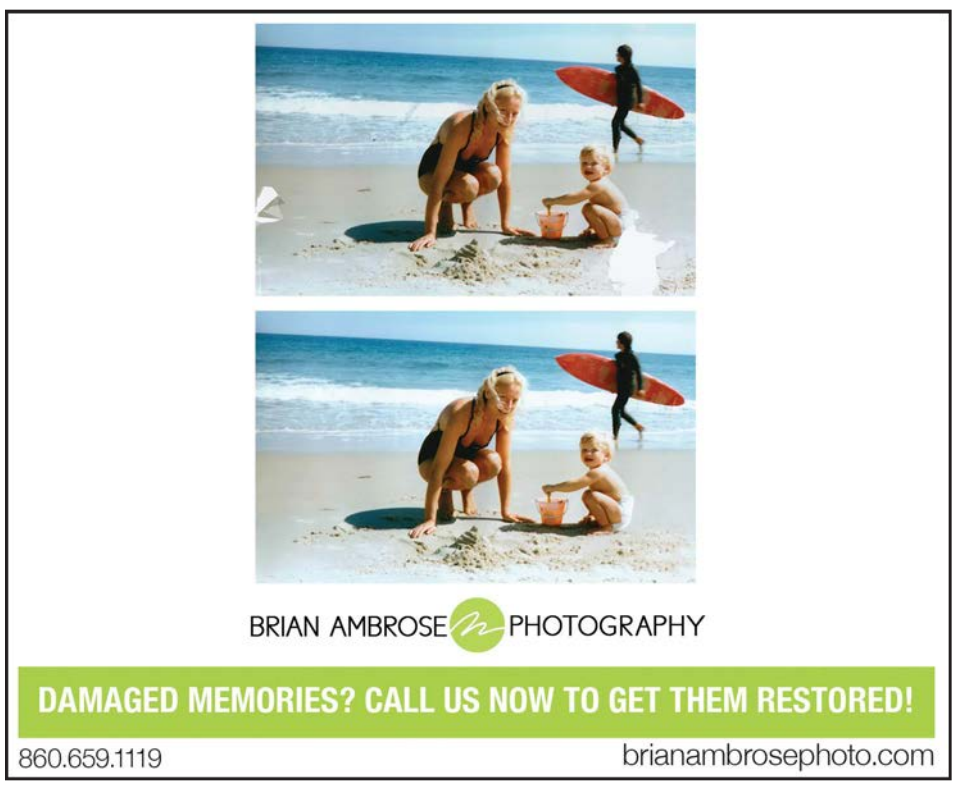
Going into the 2017 Hurricane Season...

The Atlantic Hurricane Season of 2016 featured 15 named storms, 7 reached hurricane status and of those 4 became MAJOR hurricanes. Last year was a bit more active than normal, which was accurately forecast. An "average season" includes 12 Tropical Storms (wind 39mph or greater), 6 Hurricanes (wind 74mph or greater) and 3 Major Hurricanes (111mph or greater).

When it comes to naming, there are 6 lists used in rotation for the Atlantic Basin (including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean)... alternating gender, starting at the top of the alphabet. Two from last year, Matthew and Otto, have been retired by the WMO (World Meteorological Organization, a group of international scientists) due to their deadly or destructive nature as they both wreaked havoc through the Caribbean. They'll be replaced with Martin and Owen, when the list is reused in 2022.

The Atlantic season runs from June 1st through November 30th ... although in April, Arlene formed. This is only the 2nd time in the satellite era for one to do so in that month. Early outlooks are calling for a slightly less active 2017, due to cooler-than-normal Atlantic sea surface temperatures and potential/ slow El Nino development.

Regardless of how many storms develop, the bigger issue: if and where they will make landfall – something that is extremely difficult to forecast. GL



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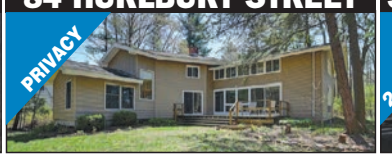

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